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FINANCIAL TIMES

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of feminine
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LES PARFUMS
WORTH

NEWS SUMMARY

GENERAL

Home rule support 'falling'

The Prime Minister will launch the Labour Party's devolution campaign in Scotland at a rally in Glasgow today, as a survey shows that support for the policy is waning.

An opinion poll in the Glasgow Herald says backing for a Scottish assembly has fallen to 45 per cent, compared with 52 per cent in January and 58 per cent last October.

A BBC survey shows that only 33 per cent of the Welsh will vote for devolution, and 45.8 per cent against. The proportion of the "undecided" is 21.2 per cent, a 7 per cent rise since last autumn. Back Page

US Jets for Sudan

The U.S. is to sell 12 F-5 jet fighters and 50 M-48 tanks to Sudan and 12 fighters to North Yemen. Defence Secretary Harold Brown said, following talks in Saudi Arabia. The Saudis will pay the cost.

Israel peace bid

Israel will send Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan to the renewed Camp David peace talks with Egypt, but says any agreement reached would need Cabinet approval. Page 2

Vietnam accused

Peking has accused Vietnam of killing more than 70 Chinese soldiers and civilians along the border in three weeks and "committing acts of sabotage despite warnings."

MP quits party

Mr. James Kilgallon, MP for North Down, is to resign from the Official Unionist Party in protest against Mr. Enoch Powell's influence on its leadership. Page 4

Jail emergency

Prison officers in Walton Jail, Liverpool, called on a woman to leave after the governor imposed a state of emergency following clashes with prisoners.

Leadership gap

The death of senior Yugoslav politician Edvard Kardelj has left a gap in the country's leadership ranks and underlined problems of who should succeed the 82-year-old Marshal Tito. Page 2

Drinking bar

Foreigners in Pakistan could be sentenced to 30 lashes and three years in jail for drinking alcohol in public, according to new Presidential orders imposing Islamic law. Page 2

Briefly...

South Africa's former Rugby captain Dawie de Villiers will be his country's new ambassador to the UK. Men and Matters. Page 12

Labour MP Mrs. Barbara Castle will contest the Greater Manchester North seat in the European Elections on June 7.

Lord Kagan, who faces tax and currency offence charges, is due to appear in a Granada TV interview recorded in Israel tonight.

A young British soldier from an armoured regiment has been stabbed to death in Herford, West Germany.

Top dog at Crufts was a Kerry Blue terrier called Callaghan, who was named Champion of Champions.

Thirteen ministers from India's largest state of Uttar Pradesh resigned after a row with the chief minister.

Exiled Somalia's opposition to President Barre have formed a new resistance movement, according to Nairobi reports.

BUSINESS

Pact 'no help to council workers'

● PUBLIC SERVICE workers' nationwide industrial action, entering its third week today, is unlikely to be solved by Wednesday's expected signing of a concordat between the TUC and the Government.

Union leaders said that nothing in the code of practice on wage bargaining could change the workers' aspirations. Back Page

UK MONEY SUPPLY

Figures due on Thursday are expected to indicate an annual rate of increase well over the 8-12 per cent target range for growth.

Page 4. Mr. Wynne Godley, director of the Department of Applied Economics at Cambridge, says this target will be difficult to achieve without restrictive fiscal and monetary policies in the light of the current pay pressure. Page 4

LEADERS of 30,000

craftsmen in the British Steel Corporation will decide today whether to go ahead with a strike from next week which could halt the industry within a few days. Back Page

BRITISH NUCLEAR FUELS

has approved a £90m investment in a gas centrifuge uranium enrichment plant at Capenhurst, Cheshire. It will create 200 permanent jobs. Back Page

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Ship-repairers, the C. H. Bailey subsidiary, has made a formal bid to take over Falmouth Ship-repairers, whose closure was announced by British Ship-builders last week. Back Page

POST OFFICE

is planning to invest up to £100m over the next five years in Project 85 electronic information technology. Plans include a national network of computer centres from which the public can obtain information using a modified television set linked to the telephone. Page 4

SUGAR production

at Tate and Lyle refineries will return to normal today after more than a month of stoppages and reduced output caused by disputes within the company's transport department. Page 4

NIGERIA and the UK

are likely to renegotiate a double tax agreement which was signed in 1963. Following talks in Lagos last month, it seems that a new agreement could be ready for signing before, or soon after, the old one runs out. Back Page

UN ENVIRONMENT

programme has been awarded a new £2.2m budget to carry on the fight against pollution in the Mediterranean. Seventeen of the 18 countries bordering the Mediterranean voted for the money which will be used to measure pollution levels and to study protection of fish breeding grounds.

CIVIL ENGINEERING

industry hopes that this year's winter recession would be less severe have been dashed according to the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors. More than 300 companies feel they are in an even worse position than in a year ago. Page 4

COMPANIES

● GUTHRIE CORPORATION'S revaluation of its assets at £239.5m was described as "indiscreet" by Sir John Darby, chairman of the company's shareholders, who said the company's overseas trader which has mounted a 425p per share bid for Guthrie. Page 22 and Lex

LLOYD'S LIFE ASSURANCE

reports a successful year to September 30, 1978, with record sales of new life business. Premium income was 10 per cent up from £13.6m to £15.1m, investment income rising 30 per cent from £2.6m to £3.5m. Page 22

'Victory at hand', claims Ayatollah Khomeini

Iran Premier resigns as troops disengage

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE WAY for a complete takeover of Iran by the Ayatollah Khomeini's Islamic revolutionary movement seemed open last night. Army units had been ordered back to their barracks and Dr. Shapur Bakhtiar, the Prime Minister appointed by the Shah, had resigned after a weekend of unprecedented violence.

Tehran Radio reported rumours that Dr. Bakhtiar had committed suicide. There was no immediate confirmation of his fate, but the ring of confidence behind the Ayatollah's claim that "victory was at hand" sounded fully justified.

The Army's declaration of neutrality yesterday morning left Dr. Bakhtiar powerless in his attempt to maintain the "legitimate" Government of the Shah, who is in Morocco, against the popular resistance aroused by the religious leader.

The troops' withdrawal to their barracks followed nearly two days of fierce fighting, which, according to some reports, had degenerated into uncontrolled anarchy last night.

Even before Dr. Bakhtiar's resignation the Ayatollah's supporters triumphantly celebrated by firing guns, captured from troops or police or handed over by disaffected servicemen, into the air. Fighting continued round the Military Academy and the Bagh-e-Shah Barracks, where loyalist troops refused to succumb to the revolutionary tide.

On the streets there was chaos. Last night the vacuum left by the Army had not been filled by the Ayatollah's shadowy Islamic Revolutionary Council.

However, the Ayatollah addressed the people in a statement on television, which his followers control. He made a call for moderation and discipline.

The text read out by one of his aides said: "Now that victory is near, and that the Armed Forces have retreated and announced their lack of intervention in political affairs, and also announced their support of the Islamic Revolution."

The crisis in Iran Page 2 • Editorial comment and the effect on the world's economy Page 12



"Popular militia" inspect a wrecked Army tank in Tehran.

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The crisis in Iran Page 2 • Editorial comment and the effect on the world's economy Page 12

Reports of world oil crisis alarmist says energy chief

BY ROBERT MAUTHNER IN PARIS

REPORTS of an impending world oil crisis are unduly alarmist and are causing unjustified panic, according to Dr. Ulf Lantzknecht, executive director of the 19-nation International Energy Agency.

Dr. Lantzknecht this weekend in Paris took issue with a reported statement by Royal Dutch-Shell last week that the cut in world oil supplies was as bad as that caused in 1973-74 by the Arab oil embargo.

Large cuts

The overall drop in supplies today was less than 4 per cent, compared with 8.3 per cent in 1973-74, he said. A distorted picture of the world market was given by the large cuts in supplies announced by individual companies such as British Petroleum and Royal Dutch-Shell, who were involved in Iranian production.

"We do not think that there is any cause for panic," Dr. Lantzknecht said. Oil supplies were assured for at least the first quarter of this year in spite of the loss of Iranian production.

Only last September, people were talking in terms of an oil glut in 1977 and 1978. "You cannot move from a glut to a crisis situation in such a short time."

If there was a glut, it must be assumed that additional possibilities existed for making up the loss.

The agency's figures show that stocks of crude and oil products in its member countries stand at 290m tonnes, marginally higher than the level assumed last January.

The stocks correspond to about 120 days' net imports and 70 days' consumption. In most member countries, stocks were still above the official level of 70 days' imports.

Dr. Lantzknecht pointed out that production in Saudi Arabia, which was contributing substantially to compensating for the suspension of Iranian oil supplies, was 9.5m barrels a day, 1m barrels a day more than last year's production limits.

Altogether, oil producers including Saudi Arabia were making up some 2m to 3m barrels a day of the 5m barrels-a-day shortfall left by Iran, with most of the rest supplied by a normal seasonal rundown of stocks of about 2m barrels a day from the beginning of this year to the end of March.

Before the end of the first quarter, stocks might have to be run down by a further 1m barrels a day, but that was by no means a disaster.

Information

Governments should not be driven into hasty decisions without a considered analysis of the facts, Dr. Lantzknecht said. Had the position been as critical as some commentators seemed to suggest, the agency would have brought forward the meeting of its governing Board, still scheduled for March 1 and 2.

By that time the agency's experts would have much additional information about international oil supply. In particular, figures for crude-oil flows in February would have come in.

Dr. Lantzknecht virtually rules out the possibility that, by the time the governing Board meets, the organisation's emergency oil-sharing plan, triggered when supplies fall at least 7 per cent, will be put into effect.

The drop in supplies so far was several percentage points below that figure, he said, and it would probably be better to deal with shortages by flexible measures by individual governments rather than by a fixed emergency system.

Mr. Edwards' strong line will make clear to the Longbridge leaders the obstacles they face in continuing the strike.

The company reports that stocks with distributors "have never been better." Mr. Eric Varley, the Industry Secretary, has also urged a return to work and said that BL Cars is in no position to survive a long break in production.

Urgent review of spending in Whitehall

BY PETER RIDDELL, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

AN INTENSIVE REVIEW of public spending plans has started in Whitehall. Spending departments have been asked to examine the implications of pay settlements above the previous 5 per cent official guidelines and to suggest a list of possible spending cuts.

The inter-departmental exercise, master-minded by the Treasury, is being mounted with the utmost urgency. It follows the recommendation by senior Ministers that the previous pay assumption - no longer valid.

The Cabinet has already conceded that in the case of local authorities, cash limits should be increased to allow for pay settlements of about 8 per cent. It is accepted in Whitehall that this means some adjustment will also be required in the cash limits for direct expenditure by central Government.

Officials have been asked to assess the possible impact of any higher pay settlements on the cash limits and for the plans announced a month ago for a 2.1 per cent increase in the volume of expenditure in the financial year starting in April. In addition, officials are preparing a list of possible cuts in preparation for Budget discussions. Some cost increases may be met with cash from the programmes which are under-spend.

Last summer, as part of the usual PESC review of expenditure, cuts amounting to 2½ per cent of departmental programmes were worked out and are thus likely to be revived in the latest review.

Moreover, the existing plans provide for a contingency reserve of £800m which has not so far been allocated and parts of it could be frozen.

The reports produced by this review will be submitted to other Ministers by Mr. Denis Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, as part of his attempt to convince the Cabinet of the need for either spending cuts or tax increases if he is to fulfil his borrowing or monetary commitments.

The timing and balance of any further measures have still to be decided and have not been discussed by the Cabinet, which will have the final say. The preference in Whitehall up to now has been for waiting at least until the final Treasury forecasts are available and for the inflation prospects to become less uncertain.

The commercial banks will make their own response to the rise in MLR and in money market rates last week. Assuming that the markets remain reasonably stable, the clearing banks are expected to raise their base lending rates by 1½ points to 14 per cent, in line with MLR.

This would mean that top-quality customers would be paying at least 15 per cent for bank credit, and that other borrowers would face charges of 17 or 18 per cent. Announcements are expected today or tomorrow.

Factors

Meanwhile, the Bank of England and the Treasury will be watching closely to see whether the rise in the official Minimum Lending Rate last week succeeds in setting domestic money markets for the time being, as it appeared on Friday, and whether sterling remains stable.

These two factors together with the political position of the Government after the March 1 devolution referendum, will be the key influences on the timing of the Budget.

Lombard, Page 10

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WORLD TRADE NEWS

Japan 'weakens efforts to cut trade surplus'

BY DAVID BUCHAN IN WASHINGTON

JAPAN'S public commitment to scale down its current account surplus with its foreign partners, made under the previous Fukuda government, appears to have weakened, U.S. officials feel after their first high level economic talks last week with representatives from the new Premier, Mr. Masayoshi Ohira.

The talks were between Mr. Takeshi Yasukawa, who is in charge of Japanese external economic policy, and Mr. Michael Blumenthal, U.S. Treasury Secretary. The talks were not aimed at reaching firm agreements it was said because Mr. Ohira was too newly in the saddle.

But U.S. officials detected some backsliding they said in Japanese attitudes that trade and current account deficits of the size that Japan is running, and looks likely to run for several years, are a threat to the international money system—particularly in the balance of the dollar and the yen—and to the liberal trading system. Calls in Congress for a surcharge or

fixed quotas on Japanese imports have increased.

Mr. Yasukawa is reported to have argued that Japan could go on running current account surpluses (on goods and services), provided this was offset by capital flows out of Japan. This is a tougher position than that taken by the Fukuda Government, U.S. officials say, and ignores the fact that the money flowing out of Japan is less in the form of long term investment and more in bank loans.

The official Japanese forecast for a current account surplus in the fiscal year starting this April is \$7.5bn. This is held here to be misleading because it includes some \$2bn of foreign goods and services which Japan is buying on a once and for all basis out of the dollars its central bank has been piling up in currency intervention operations.

The real figure for the current account is \$10-12bn, U.S. officials believe, with little let-up in 1980 and 1981. There is, however, U.S. officials point out,

plenty of time for the Japanese Government to change its tune before the seven-power economic summit which it is hosting in Tokyo in June.

Reuter adds from Washington: The U.S. Commerce Department has warned that "unjustified euphoria" over the prospect of U.S. trade with China could lead to mistaken decisions by government and business officials in this country.

The potential for trade with China is much less than many people believe, the Department said.

Predictions that China could import as much as \$200bn from Western nations by 1985 are unrealistic, primarily because China will lack the resources to pay for them, it added. Even under the most favourable circumstances, it said the U.S. could expect to sell China \$12bn to \$15bn in goods in the 1978-83 period, or about 10 per cent of China's hard currency imports. China's imports from the West last year totalled \$8.5bn and it exported \$8.2bn.

UK firms in talks on \$2bn Cairo sewage plan

By Roger Matthews in Cairo

REPRESENTATIVES FROM a group of British companies have left Egypt after four days of talks with senior officials on the up to \$2bn scheme to renovate and renew Cairo's failing sewage system.

The initial, top-priority plan, designed to remove the threat of more widespread sewage flooding and provide a limited amount of spare capacity, will cost about \$500m. Britain has already promised a grant of \$50m towards the work and the U.S. Agency for International Development has followed this with a pledge of another \$100m.

The loosely-knit British consortium of merchant bankers Samuel Montagu, the Midland Bank, GEC, Ames Crosta Babcock and Edmund Nutall, is keen to work get under way as swiftly as possible. Consultants John Taylor and Sons and Blimie and Partners worked in their six-volume report officially presented to the Egyptian Government last autumn of the "potentially explosive" danger of epidemics breaking out in the capital unless urgent action was taken.

Taylor Blimie is expected shortly to form a joint venture company with U.S. consultants who have been selected as a result of the American participation in the scheme.

The Egyptian Government has already budgeted for the equivalent of \$300m in local currency which is the domestic component of the top-priority works. This leaves a further \$100m in foreign currency to be raised. It is anticipated that the banking expertise in the UK consortium will assist the Egyptian Government in raising these funds, probably within the Arab world.

A substantial flow of foreign orders is certain to come from the project. The initial, top-priority plan, designed to remove the threat of more widespread sewage flooding and provide a limited amount of spare capacity, will cost about \$500m. Britain has already promised a grant of \$50m towards the work and the U.S. Agency for International Development has followed this with a pledge of another \$100m.

Motor sales provide major boost for French exports

BY TERRY DODSWORTH IN PARIS

FRANCE'S MOTOR industry demonstrated its importance to the country's foreign trade position once again last year by increasing overseas sales by 13.4 per cent to account for almost 14 per cent of total French exports.

The figures, produced by the Manufacturers' Association, underline the industry's claim that it remains one of the "main supports" of France's external trade. Preliminary Government statistics show the country's exports reaching about Frs 558bn (\$83.5bn) last year with agricultural sales overseas coming close to the motor industry figure at around Frs 50bn.

Among the main points in the year's trading, which covers both vehicle and component companies, are:

Exports rose to Frs 45bn (\$11.2bn), of which Frs 30bn were vehicles alone.

Imports went up rather more slowly than exports, by 11.5 per cent to reach Frs 24bn.

The favourable trading balance for the industry was about Frs 24bn, up by 15.3 per cent compared with the previous year.

The automotive surplus compensated for about half of the country's oil bill, which reached Frs 54.1bn in 1978.

Comparisons since the beginning of this decade show that the favourable balance on trade has doubled in real terms during the last nine years. In constant francs, the balance reached Frs 6bn in 1970 to rise to Frs 12bn last year.

These results have been achieved by means of a much faster rate of growth than experienced over the full range of French manufacturing industry. Vehicle production has grown by an average of 8.1 per cent a year since 1970, against an average industrial growth rate of 3.9 per cent.

Brazilian industry beats target

BY DIANA SMITH IN RIO DE JANEIRO

BRAZIL'S VEHICLE industry exported 96,000 cars or cks (completely built or completely knocked down units) in 1978, thus earning \$1.65bn in foreign revenue. This exceeds the industry's foreign sales forecast by \$400m.

This year the industry, led by Brazilian subsidiaries of Volkswagen, Ford, General Motors, Fiat and Mercedes-Benz (vehicles or bus chassis, not cars), expects to sell 110,000 units abroad, with a 25 to 30 per cent rise in foreign earnings.

Increased foreign sales will help to absorb the impact of the Brazilian Government's new determination to discourage petrol consumption and purchase of cars. This was put into effect by a 15 per cent increase in the price of petrol last week, and a reduction in the number of hire purchase instalments allowed.

Buyers of used or new cars on hire purchase must now make payments in 18, not 24 monthly instalments. This means an average increase of 25 per cent in the cost of a monthly instalment. The new reduction follows the 1977 cut in the number of instalments from 36 to 24, which caused a serious drop in car sales that year.

The industry recovered in 1978, however, with over 18 per cent growth and, for the first time in Brazilian history, achieved an output of over 1m cars in just under a year. It is estimated that, initially, 30 per cent of the market will be affected by the squeeze on hire purchase payments, since in major urban centres, customers often pay cash down or on 90-120 day terms.

The authorities have taken steps to lessen petrol and diesel oil consumption. This is because Brazil faces an annual imported crude oil bill of \$4.5bn, and because the loss of 150,000 barrels a day imported from Iran, Brazil's third largest supplier, is putting a strain on stocks.

Already, Brazilian cars run on a mixture of 84 per cent petrol and 16 per cent ethyl alcohol, distilled from abundant sugar cane supplies. Now, 4 per cent alcohol will be added to diesel oil, meaning an extra 600m litres of alcohol production by Brazil's distillers this year (total 1979 alcohol production is estimated at 3.8bn litres).

The addition of 4 per cent alcohol to diesel oil will save 10,000 barrels a day of crude by the end of 1979, according to the authorities. All told, Brazil consumes over 1m barrels of derivatives a day. The rise in OPEC crude prices and the Iranian crisis have given a spur to the national alcohol production programme, operated in conjunction with alcohol motor research by the car industry which claims to be ready to produce 100,000 vehicles that can be run exclusively on alcohol.

SHIPPING REPORT

Oil tanker lay-ups forecast

By Lynton McLain

SHIPBROKERS forecast a return to the widespread lay-up of oil tankers last week as the unavoidable consequence of the cut back in oil supplies from Iran.

The shortfall in production in the Gulf, however, has again had a stimulating effect on oil trades elsewhere. There was a rise in demand for smaller oil tankers last week, but rates did not reflect the upturn and there were signs that the recent depression in the oil tanker chartering market was affecting all owners.

The freight rates for very large crude carriers operating out of the Gulf fell back last week to below the levels of last May, when rates fell to Worldscale 20.

A number of large vessels now waiting at the Gulf will either have to continue waiting or will have to accept loss-making rates to enable them to return home for lay up.

The tanker market in Indonesia was active with a number of tankers destined for Japan and the west coast of the U.S. The demand for tonnage loading in West Africa remained steady, with rates for an \$5,000 ton vessel at approximately Worldscale 85.

There was also activity in the Mediterranean, but rates fell back on the previous week's levels.

Israel gem thefts

The Israeli diamond industry, the country's biggest foreign exchange earner, is reeling from police disclosures of unprecedented thefts involving up to \$250m worth of gems.

Police have so far brought 24 suspects to court, five of them members of Israel's diamond exchange. Reuters

\$2.5bn orders for U.S. aerospace

BY MICHAEL DONNE

THE U.S. aerospace industry over the past week has won new orders worth more than \$2.5bn for airlines, guided weapons and space vehicles.

The biggest contract, for \$1.9bn (nearly £1bn) was won by Rockwell International of California from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to build four "Space Shuttle" aircraft, for the next U.S. manned spaceflight venture.

This is to develop a manned space transport system for the 1980s, whereby satellites and other payloads can be carried into earth orbit by a manned vehicle which will return to earth after each mission, for refurbishing for later missions.

The new contract is an extension of the original Space Shuttle design won by Rockwell in 1972, for the design, development and testing of two Shuttle spacecraft and a structural test spacecraft.

Boeing Aerospace, part of the Boeing group, has won a \$250m contract from the

Defence Department to develop the Air-Launched Cruise Missile (ALCM).

This is a small, subsonic, unmanned missile designed to be launched from B-52 bomber aircraft and then to fly long distances to targets deep within enemy territory.

It will be part of a competitive study by the Defence Department, which has also awarded a similar contract to General Dynamics for development of an air-launched cruise missile.

A "fly-off" competition will be held this summer, and on the outcome of this, a final production contract for cruise missiles will be awarded.

Meanwhile Qantas of Australia has ordered two more Boeing 747s, bringing its fleet to 19, the airline's chairman, Sir Lennox Hewitt, has announced. The aircraft, with spares, are worth more than \$60m.

McDonnell Douglas Corporation has won orders worth

\$172m—from Continental Airlines of the U.S. for two DC-10-30 trijet airliners, worth about \$100m, with an option on two more, and from Aeromexico for six DC-9-30 twin-jet airliners, worth about \$72m.

Lockheed of California has won a \$50m order for one TriStar trijet, with an option on two more, from Trans Caribbean Airlines.

The Trans-Carib deal will bring business worth \$25m to Rolls-Royce, whose RB-211 engines will power all three aircraft.

Our Rio de Janeiro correspondent adds: Varig, Brazil's national airline which, with its associate, Cruzeiro do Sul, carries 46 per cent of domestic flight passengers, is negotiating purchase of five McDonnell Douglas DC-10s.

Meanwhile, Brazilian civil aviation authorities have indicated that at least four Airbus are likely to be ordered to renew the fleet used on the Rio de Janeiro-Belo Horizonte-Brasilia shuttle

UK surplus tops £416m

BY OUR AEROSPACE CORRESPONDENT

THE UK earned a payment surplus of over £416m on its aerospace industry account last year, with exports of £1.17bn against imports of nearly £754m.

Figures issued by the Society of British Aerospace Companies show that exports of aircraft and parts amounted

to over £550.5m, while exports of engines and parts amounted to more than £495m.

Imports of aircraft, mainly Boeing 747 Jumbo jets and Lockheed TriStars, and McDonnell Douglas DC-10s for UK airlines, amounted to £285m, while imports of engines amounted to £378m.

World Economic Indicators

	Jan. 79	Dec. 78	Nov. 78	Jan. 78	% change over previous year	Index base year=100
W. Germany	147.1	146.1	145.5	142.4	2.6	1970=100
Italy	139.5	138.5	137.3	124.7	11.9	1976=100
Holland	122.5	122.6	122.6	117.9	3.9	1975=100
U.K.	204.2	202.5	201.1	188.4	8.4	1974=100
France	207.8	206.8	205.7	189.4	9.7	1970=100
Belgium	136.1	129.5	129.1	125.3	3.6	1975=100
U.S.	202.9	202.0	200.9	184.1	9.9	1967=100
Japan	123.5	124.8	124.6	119.4	3.6	1975=100

Fokker seeks partners for Super F-28

By Michael Donne

FOKKER OF Holland, which is planning a new, short-haul twin-engine jetliner, the Super F-28, to seat between 115 and 130 passengers, is to seek international partners on the programme.

The company says that it has begun talks with companies in the UK, the U.S., France, Italy, Sweden and West Germany, to find risk-sharing partners for the new venture.

The talks in the U.S. have revealed "considerable interest." Among companies approached were Boeing and Lockheed. No firm decisions have yet been taken.

Fokker also says that it hopes to be able to collaborate with companies in Japan. Mr. F. Swartman, president and chairman of Fokker, will visit Japan soon for preliminary talks.

Tandbergs Radio Manufacturers' Bankruptcy Estate

It is hereby announced:

The assets of the bankrupt Tandberg Radio Manufacturers Co. are to be liquidated.

The estate is now being handled by the council for the estate, and will soon be ready for sale.

The assets consist of factory, warehouse and office buildings (5 in all) in the Oslo area, as well as production equipment for radio, television, loudspeaker, stereo, educational aids and data equipment.

The estate owns shares in sales companies in the U.S.A., Great Britain, West Germany, France, Holland, Belgium, Austria, Denmark, Sweden and Finland.

In addition, a company for production of Colour Television in Scotland, and a company for production and sale of data equipment in San Diego, California.

The estate owns patents, trademarks, commercial names, drawings and constructions pertaining to the above-mentioned equipment.

A comprehensive prospectus is being drawn up. Interested parties should send bids as soon as possible for the whole or part of the production equipment, etc.

The council for the estate reserves the right to evaluate the seriousness of each offer and to accept or reject each bid.

Contact by letter or telex:

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HOW TO ENTER THE VIDEO AGE

It's easy. Simply study the five 'Video Age' questions below and decide which of the three answers to each is correct. Enter the answers in the boxes provided.

Then just complete the unfinished sentence in no more than 10 words and you're almost there.

Now all you have to do is fill in the rest of the entry form—your name and address, the name of your Philips dealer and the date on which you purchased or rented your new Philips TV or VCR.

We also need the model number and serial number of your new set. It's printed clearly on the back of the set, but if in doubt ask your Philips dealer.

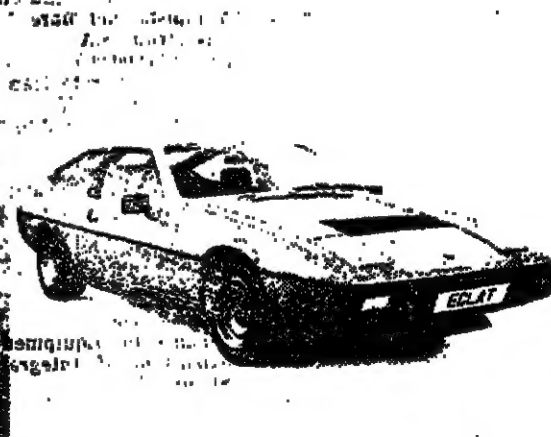
Completed entry forms should be posted to: Philips Video Age Competition, P.O. Box 3, Horley, Surrey RH6 9ER.

There are two closing dates for entries. If you rent or purchase in February, entries must be received on or before last post on 15th March. For the March competition the closing date is 17th April 1979.

A complete set of rules is available on application from the Philips Video Age competition address.



WIN A HOUSE TO THE VALUE OF £60,000.



WIN A LOTUS ECLAT.



WIN ONE OF 6 TRIPS FOR 2, BY CONCORDE TO THE U.S.A.

WIN ONE OF 30 OMEGA CHRONO-QUARTZ WATCHES.

Use your skill and judgement to select the correct answers to these 'Video Age' questions.

I entered the Video Age with Philips because _____

1. Where were the very first TV transmissions made?
(a) U.S.A.; (b) Holland; (c) Great Britain.

2. When was colour TV first publicly broadcast in the United Kingdom?
(a) 1963; (b) 1967; (c) 1970.

3. Satellites are now an important link in worldwide TV broadcasts. Which was the first communications satellite?
(a) Sputnik; (b) Apollo 8; (c) Echo 1.

4. Who is credited as the inventor of television?
(a) John Logie Baird; (b) Thomas Edison; (c) Alexander Graham Bell.

5. Which company pioneered domestic video recording in the U.K.?
(a) Philips; (b) JVC; (c) Sony.

Put your answers in the boxes provided.

1 2 3

4 5

Now complete the unfinished sentence in no more than 10 words. In the event of a tie for any prize, the most apt and original tie-breaker will win.

Name _____

Address _____

Date of purchase or signing of rental agreement _____

Dealer's name and address _____

Model No. _____ Serial No. _____

Closing dates as shown above.

Send your complete entry to:
Philips Video Age Competition, P.O. Box 3,
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Simply years ahead

PHILIPS

UK NEWS

LABOUR

£100m backing for Prestel service

BY MAX WILKINSON

THE POST OFFICE plans to invest up to £100m over the next five years in Prestel, its new electronic information service.

It is to set up a national network of computer centres from which the public can obtain information, ranging from rail and air timetables to business statistics, general advice and quizzes, using a modified television set linked to the telephone.

The plans include a large central "information warehouse" to support local computer systems.

The Post Office has decided to invest rapidly in the service in the hope of creating a mass market as quickly as possible. Trials with the system have led to the conclusion that it can only be viable economically when its users are measurable in hundreds of thousands.

Dr. Alex Reid, head of

Prestel, believes that the service will become most profitable when it has about a million viewers and a million "pages" of information, although it will be viable when smaller. If the service gains wide public acceptance it might achieve a turnover of about £100m by the mid-1980s.

Achieving high volume for the service will depend on pricing policies adopted by manufacturers of the modified television sets. Prestel sets cost more than £1,000, but would demand high enough, the cost might be reduced to between £50 and £100 in addition to the price of a remote-control set.

In the first year or two, most users are expected to be businesses, but eventually many homes might use the service for reference, entertainment, general information and mail-order shopping.

Prestel has sold more than 180,000 "pages" of information to 160 information sources. It will be launched as a public service this year, probably in autumn, although it is expected to become generally available by early summer.

Users pressing a button on their set will thereby dial the Post Office computer. Pages are selected by pressing buttons on a key pad rather like a pocket calculator. Users pay a local telephone charge and a small charge for viewing each page.

Local computer centres will all carry identical information used in the most commonly sought pages. The information warehouse will be used for pages required more rarely.

The system is being exported to several countries. West Germany so far the largest. The Post Office hopes that it will bring in foreign earnings of perhaps £1m a year.

Thatcher promises law against union power abuse

BY PHILIP RAWSTORNE

THE NEXT Conservative Government will legislate to curb abuses of trade union power and will seek no-strike agreements with workers in essential public services, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, Leader of the Opposition, declared at the weekend.

In a speech to the Young Conservative conference in Bournemouth, she made clear that her offer of support to the Labour Government for such measures had not meant that she wanted a coalition.

Mrs. Thatcher said: "The great majority of wage claims should be settled by responsible bargaining on equal terms between employers and workers."

"That means bargaining from which sheer bullying is excluded. It means bargaining which cannot end in a strike unless the strike has been genuinely approved by a majority of workers, balloting secretly."

"It means bargaining which is not supported by intimidation on picket lines."

"It means bargaining which does not derive its force from the threat that any worker who refuses to go along with the instruction of his shop steward may lose his job."

If, after reform, groups of workers were still resolved to hold the country to ransom, it was clear that in a very few essential industries and services "the right to pursue industrial

disputes by strike action is not consistent with public safety."

Certain workers should be asked to forgo the right to strike. "In return, they should have special safeguards for their pay, assuming efficient manning levels. Overmanning is the greatest single source of low wages in our economy."

If such agreements were not accepted or were defied, Mrs. Thatcher said, she would rally volunteers to help the Government maintain essential services.

"There are enough people in this country resolved to keep it going and determined not to yield to bullying, enough to stave off this kind of national disaster if it ever threatened."

Mr. James Prior, Tory employment spokesman, called for recognition that the law had a part to play in industrial relations. "It is not the whole answer, but it is not no answer."

The next Conservative Government would have to ensure that it had widespread public support for such legislation.

The best way to help the lower paid was through lower taxes, public spending cuts, and encouragement of initiative and enterprise.

Mr. Harold Macmillan, 85 on Saturday, was given a rousing, foot-stamping, five-minute standing ovation when he made the closing speech at the conference.

Coggan invited to discuss strikes

MR. ALAN FISHER, general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees yesterday invited the Archbishop of Canterbury to meet him to discuss the public sector strikes.

Mr. Fisher, whose 700,000 members are involved in all four public sector disputes, said: "Our members who daily struggle to provide care in an uncaring society know that they had to take action in order to make people listen to their legitimate case."

The Archbishop gave a warning yesterday that society was in danger of destroying itself by selfishness and pitiless strikes. He condemned the widespread "every man for himself" attitude, and called for a change of heart.

Dr. David Coggan, speaking at the centenary service of St. John the Baptist, Folkestone, told the congregation of about 400: "What we all need, employers, employees, all of us, is a change of heart and mind — what Christians call repentance."

He said: "Suppose you have a people whose master passion is to grab and not to give. Suppose you have a people who are heedless of mercy and of restraint and of sacrifice."

"Suppose you have that: then disaster lies ahead for that people and the seeds of death are in it."

Dr. Coggan said that the forces of selfishness were rampant. "Each man for himself and never mind if someone gets hurt. These forces will destroy us if there is not that change of mind and of heart."

He said he received a letter last month from a Christian trade unionist, thanking him for "speaking out" against strikes.

Dr. Coggan told the congregation that he had written to the principles of the Gospel was needed.

"He would have something pretty caustic to say about some areas where employees are still badly paid."

Times unions welcome talks on Benn project

BY LISA WOOD

TIMES NEWSPAPERS employees' representatives welcomed discussion at the weekend on a proposal by Mr. Anthony Wedgwood Benn, Energy Secretary, that the BBC should take over the Times.

However, Mr. William Rees-Mogg, editor of the Times, attacked Mr. Benn's proposals yesterday as a "publicly funded takeover" and "an attack on the freedom of the Press."

Speaking on a BBC radio programme in which Mr. Benn was interviewed, Mr. Rees-Mogg declared that he would not edit the newspaper if it was owned by the BBC.

He said: "This proposal is totally irrelevant. The Times is not a newspaper. The BBC could not help as the issue was productivity."

Mr. Benn said that if the Times were not to die, it might be bought by an international oil company, as was the Observer.

Six wealthy men and two international corporations controlled 270 papers in Britain. "Would it not be better for the BBC, which has a worldwide reputation for balance and a charter, to assume this responsibility and get the paper started again?"

The general secretaries of the National Graphical Association, National Union of Journalists, National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel and Society of Graphic and Allied Trades are to meet this week to discuss Mr. Benn's proposal.

At Saturday's conference of chapels, the joint Liaison Committee of Times unions reported that it had rejected proposals by Mr. Len Murray, TUC general secretary, for re-starting publication of the Times. The Sunday Times and the supplements.

Only the representatives of the Sunday Times journalists, voted against rejection.

Resumption

Mr. Murray's proposals included an extension of notices for employees not yet dismissed and lump sum payments to the 1,100 employees who have been dismissed, with the promise of reinstatement when publication resumes.

The Liaison committee is demanding reinstatement and resumption of publication before further negotiations on computer typesetting and a disputes procedure guaranteeing continuous production.

The Evening News, London, has written to more than 7,000 employees at the weekend to say that the newspaper will close if a compulsory redundancy scheme is rejected.

Some unions at the newspaper have refused to discuss economy cuts unless a threat of compulsory job loss is withdrawn.

Mr. Robert Strange, father (chairman) of the Evening News chapel of the National Union of Journalists, described the letter as "outgoing, the frustration of the previous redundancies exercises had been accompanied by similar warnings and promises of a secure future if they were accepted."

Entrepreneurial

A conference of Times union chapels decided to seek to meet Mr. Benn and other MPs to discuss his proposal.

In putting that to the general secretaries of the unions concerned, Mr. Benn said: "The BBC Charter already permits it to engage in a wide range of entrepreneurial activities and if the Government were to invite the BBC Governors to take on this new role, alone or with funds from the National Enterprise Board, an offer to acquire could be made to the owners."

Chapple speaks out for moderates' plan

BY ALAN PIKE, LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

MR. FRANK CHAPPLE, the electricians' leader, said yesterday that it was untrue for critics to suggest that proposals for the economy published by trade union leaders in the pamphlet A Better Way has already been tried and found lacking.

Mr. Chapple, general secretary of the Electrical and Plumbing Trades Union was one of a dozen union leaders who signed the proposals.

Explaining his position to his members in Contact, the union's journal, he says: "None of the parties involved in the current conflicts have attempted to apply a long-term policy based upon a genuine understanding of the country's economic needs and the scale of reward that different contributions to the economy should receive."

The proposals in A Better Way tackle the problems on two fronts. On incomes the pamphlet suggests reforms in pay bargaining, new structures and traditional differentials.

Higher wages must be paid for by greater efficiency, and account taken of public interest, fellow-workers and the consumer.

On prices, the pamphlet calls for more extensive tripartite discussions and establishment of an independent agency on pay, prices, profits and dividends.

The principal argument was that "no-one can take any credit for our current methods of resolving these problems, neither is it possible to look upon their yearly repetition without fearing the consequences."

A Better Way did not set out to be a panacea, but was a vehicle for those who wished to avoid continual confrontation and strife.

"It attempts to put the matter right on a more permanent basis, because until such a basis is found each year will simply become a reflection of the previous year—the same arguments, the same hysteria, and a growing resentment that can only lead to the end of the trade union movement as we know it today."

In immediate terms, Mr. Chapple says, he fears that the current industrial strife is likely to get worse and not better.

Pay settlements already reached cover barely one-third of the industrial work force, and claimants from "the most powerful groups," such as engineers, railwaymen, miners, power workers and building workers had still to be resolved.

Michelin strike call rejected

MORE than 2,500 Michelin workers in the Stoke-on-Trent area yesterday voted overwhelmingly against a strike, rejecting a recommendation from their negotiators, the Michelin joint council, to go on strike from February 24 in support of their claim.

The vote confirmed their rejection at a meeting last month of strike action. The men are members of the Transport and General Workers' Union. The French-run company has offered an immediate pay rise of nearly 10 per cent with an additional 4 per cent in May, if production levels are met.

Managers urge review of laws on picketing

BRITAIN'S managers called yesterday for a review of the laws on picketing, and for a code of practice to be drawn up.

A submission to the Department of Employment by the British Institute of Management calls for a review of existing civil legislation: tightening up on the immunities now available to picketers; and a code of practice on picketing to be drawn up jointly by the Government,

employer's organisations and the TUC.

The submission comments: "The law is frequently flouted by picketers. Thankfully, violence on the picket lines is still the exception, although it may not always remain so."

A majority of members considers that while a strengthening of criminal law may not be necessary, a review of the civil law should be undertaken, and, if necessary, it should be amended.

University teachers seek 28% rise

A 28 PER CENT pay increase is being sought by the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education, representing 70,000 further education lecturers. The claim will be put to the Burnham

further education committee for approval later this month. "The position of our members in the earnings league has deteriorated badly since the Houghton Report of 1974," a union official said.

Civil engineering has bad winter

BY MAURICE SAMUELSON

HOPES THAT the winter recession in the civil engineering industry would be less severe this year have been dashed, says the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors.

A survey of more than 300 companies' performance in the past three months showed that many felt they were in an even worse position than a year ago. The level of invitations to tender had dipped, and there was no improvement in order books.

Worst-hit areas were South Wales, Scotland and Yorkshire.

More plant was idle than a year ago, and some companies expected heavy shedding of labour, contrary to usual seasonal trends.

Although most concerns recorded "some optimism" as a possible reaction to the present depression, their optimism was more muted than in the Federation's last survey.

It said that the survey reinforced its view that if the Government were forced to cut public expenditure this should be on current rather than capital spending.

Post Office ponders new phone technology

By John Lloyd

THE POST OFFICE is looking for a replacement microphone for the country's 23m telephone sets.

The device used now, known as the carbon granule microphone, has been manufactured to a design largely unchanged since the invention of the telephone.

There are now two major possibilities, claimed to be cheaper and more reliable, for replacement, the semiconductor-based electret microphone and the piezo-electric film microphone.

The four main suppliers of handsets to the Post Office, the General Electric Company, Plessey, Standard Telephone and Cable, and Pye, all possess technology of this general type.

The corporation is also examining an electret-type device made by the Swedish company Rifa, a subsidiary of the telecommunications company L. M. Ericsson.

Although the chief advantages claimed for the new devices are greater reliability, and thus lower maintenance costs, the carbon granule microphones are both very cheap and can give a stronger signal than the modern alternatives.

A further problem, not yet solved, is compatibility between the new technology and the old. Since the carbon granule microphones would be replaced progressively, the replacement microphones would be required to co-exist with them for some years.

Insurance law 'favours' companies'

LEGISLATION ON the way in which insurance claims are met is weighted too heavily in favour of insurance companies, the Law Commission says in a working paper.

A fairer balance between insurer and insured should be struck, while enabling insurers to continue to offer the same range of services.

The commission suggests reforms and invites comments on its proposals.

It suggests that the person who wants insurance should have to tell the insurer only what a reasonable person might consider important.

Present law dictates that when someone applies for insurance he must tell the insurer "everything which the insurer might consider important."

£2m sea wall

A SEA WALL costing nearly £2m is planned for the north beach at Hoxham, Norfolk, subject to approval by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Clear economic picture likely this week

BY DAVID FREUD

A CLEAR picture of the state of the British economy at the turn of the year is likely to emerge this week with the release of several key economic indicators.

The figures will cover the money supply, retail sales and prices, industrial production, average earnings and the balance of payments.

The money supply figures for the month to mid-January, due on Thursday, are expected to show a rise of between 2 and 3 per cent following the banking statistics released last week.

Total eligible liabilities of the banking system rose by 2.2 per cent in the five weeks to mid-January. These are an

Pym seeks observers for Rhodesia poll

BY PHILIP RAWSTORNE

MR. FRANCIS PYM, Tory spokesman on foreign affairs, has called on the Government to send observers to the Rhodesian elections in April.

In Cambridge at the weekend, Mr. Pym said the Government should take a fresh initiative "to enable the test of acceptability of the internal settlement" to take place in circumstances that are as favourable as possible.

If the Government refused to do so, it would suggest that it wanted to discredit the elections, he said.

The Conservatives, who would send their own observers, wanted to ensure that the elections could not be challenged later by claims that they had not been a fair test of acceptability.

If the result confirmed majority support for the internal settlement, Rhodesia should be restored to legality, granted international recognition and sanctions lifted.

Mr. Pym today emerges top of a poll of Conservative MPs for places in Mrs. Thatcher's first Cabinet.

The ballot of Tory backbenchers in which only a third returned votes was organised by Crossbow, the Bow Group's magazine.

Sir Geoffrey Howe takes second place, with the deputy leader, Mr. William Whitelaw, third.

Marked support is given for the recall of Mr. Peter Walker, former Industry Minister, who has been excluded from the Shadow Cabinet.

But Mr. Edward Heath is well down the list; and Mrs. Sally Oppenheim, spokesman on prices, receives only two votes.

MP will quit Official Unionists over Powell

MR. JAMES KILFEDDER, MP for North Down, is to resign from the Official Unionist Party in protest against Mr. Enoch Powell's influence on its leadership, writes Philip Rawstorne.

He said yesterday that Mr. Harry West, the party leader, was allowing Mr. Powell "to lead the party by the nose" toward total integration of Northern Ireland in the UK.

Mr. Kilfedder, who was expelled from the Official Unionist group at Westminster

three years ago after differences over voting tactics, said he had asked for a meeting of his constituency association to inform it of his decision.

He is expected to announce plans to fight the next General Election as an Independent Unionist. He fought the February, 1974, election under the same label, after failing to win a seat, and was subsequently defeated.

He was then readopted as the party candidate in October, 1974.

Ocean Transport to form integrated division

BY LYNTON MCALIN

OCEAN TRANSPORT and Trading is to rationalise its fleet structure with the integration of four existing divisions into the new Ocean Marine division from March 5.

Ocean Marine will combine the Ocean Fleets, Ocean Liners, Blue Funnel Bulkships and Ship Procurement Divisions.

Mr. W. N. Menzies-Wilson will be managing director.

The move is a necessary development after the reduction in the company's ship fleet, which stands at 34 vessels, and

the completion of the greater part of the group's re-equipment programme.

Part of the group's liner trade activities operate away from the company's Liverpool headquarters and this has contributed to the need for change.

The ships' agency companies, apart from Ocean Shipping Agencies and the West African Agencies, will become part of Ocean Cory as soon as possible.

Ships within the various existing divisions will continue to operate under their own identities.

Malaysia air services talks break up

BY MICHAEL DONNE, AEROSPACE CORRESPONDENT

TALKS BETWEEN the UK and Malaysia on a new air services agreement have been adjourned in Kuala Lumpur with no progress being made.

Reports suggest that the only concession by the UK was for a new Malaysian Air Services daily Airbus flight between Kuala Lumpur and Hong Kong.

But no additional MAS flights to London were agreed. The Malaysian airline had been hoping for additional DC-10 flights to the UK, in return for Malaysia permitting Concorde

flights to resume to Singapore through Malaysian airspace.

Mr. Hamzah Majid, director-general of Malaysia's Civil Aviation Department, who headed the Malaysian team at the talks, said that his country's view that MAS had reached the point where it needed more services was not accepted by the UK.

The two sides were unable to agree on capacity requirements after studying statistics. He described the outcome as "disappointing." A date for a further meeting has not been fixed.

'Restricted fiscal policy needed,' says Godley

BY DAVID FREUD

IT IS difficult to see how restrictive monetary and fiscal policies can now be avoided in the UK, according to Mr. Wynne Godley, director of the Department of Applied Economics at Cambridge.

Writing in City stockbrokers' Vickers do Costa's latest economic circular, Mr. Godley says the Government has established very firmly in the public mind the crucial importance of keeping the public sector borrowing requirement at about £8.5bn this financial year, and of preventing the money stock from rising above the 8-12 per cent range.

These targets, particularly the former, will be very difficult to achieve without restrictive fiscal and monetary policies in the light of the present pay pressure, he says.

"It is very difficult to see, in view of the stated policies of both the main parties and of the expectations now held by markets and commentators, how

such restrictive policies can now be avoided."

Mr. Godley doubts whether further restriction of this kind will result in less cost and price inflation and adds: "I have never understood what mechanism is supposed to bring this about."

The prospect of further general recession and still higher unemployment will in no way weaken the resolve of the groups which feel themselves to be relatively out of line, he says.

"It is possible that, if fiscal and monetary restriction were of such severity that sterling were to appreciate, then some small and probably short-lived mitigation of inflation might occur through the effect on import prices. But this degree of restriction is to be dreaded; for the industrial recession would get a further twist from the loss of competitive power in world markets."

Clear economic picture likely this week

BY DAVID FREUD

important constituent of money supply on the broader definition, Sterling M3.

While one cannot read directly from the eligible liabilities to M3, further influences on the outcome for M3 are likely to be more or less counterbalanced each other, leaving a monthly rise of between 2 and 3 per cent.

Such an increase would take the annual rate of increase in the money supply over the 8-12 per cent target range for growth, which was rolled forward three months ago until next October.

Today's provisional estimates for retail sales in

January will indicate how much the pre-Christmas spending surge, fuelled by tax rebates and raised social security payments, was continued in the January sales.

Provisional figures for industrial production in December are likely to confirm that production was slowing at the end of 1978. Output in October and November was well down on the average for the second and third quarters.

Wednesday's average earnings figures will show how many employees have settled so far in the pay round. Last month the Department of Employment said that the

number of employees in major groups who had settled was only 1.5m—compared with 2.4m at the same time last year.

The current account balance of payments for January is also due on Wednesday. These have been particularly erratic over the past year and the lorry drivers' dispute is likely to provide an additional disturbing effect.

The strike, which contributed to food shortages, together with the cold weather, may have raised some shop prices and this temporary effect may be reflected in the retail price index for January, released on Friday.

University teachers seek 28% rise

A 28 PER CENT pay increase is being sought by the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education, representing 70,000 further education lecturers. The claim will be put to the Burnham


further education committee for approval later this month. "The position of our members in the earnings league has deteriorated badly since the Houghton Report of 1974," a union official said.

HEART OF POLYESTER ARE OUR SHIPS...



Does it seem far-fetched that the great navies and merchant fleets of the world will one day be moulded in plastics?

Yet parts of them are today. Smaller craft, it's true, such as minehunters, work boats and submersibles. Yet there they are, hulls and superstructures sailing the seas, rivers and harbours of the world, moulded with the help of Cellobond polyester resins,

BP  specially developed by BP Chemicals. Next—a through-deck cruiser like

this in plastics? What seems incredible today may be only just over the horizon.

BP Chemicals are always working at the frontiers of technology, researching new applications for our products and making them work. If the admiralties of the world decided to move from steel to reinforced plastics, many of the hulls launched would be built with the help of BP Chemicals.

BP Chemicals are one of the

founders of the European petrochemicals industry. Our direct access to the raw materials from within the BP Group provides security of supply. This, together with our continuing investment in resources, service and product range, ensures that we continue to meet the needs of industry today, and the demands of the world tomorrow.

BP chemicals-making it all happen

Building and Civil Engineering

Planning a ship-repair facility

THE Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries, Kuwait, has appointed British consulting engineers Rendel Palmer and Triton to undertake a comprehensive technical and economic feasibility study aimed at the establishment of major ship-repair facilities in one of the Mediterranean member countries of OPEC, Syria, Egypt, Libya or Algeria. The study will be subdivided into three stages. In the first a market study will be carried out to forecast the demand for

repair and maintenance services, and to serve as a basis for determining the optimum size and type of facility to be provided. The second stage will be directed towards the selection of the most suitable country in which to site the facility, while the third will determine the best location within the chosen country, and include a detailed financial and economic evaluation of the project. The study will be completed in May 1980. Economic aspects

will be undertaken by the consultant's own associated firm, the RPT Economic Studies Group. In the first stage assistance in establishing world-wide and regional shipping trends, fleet growth and trading patterns will be provided by the specialist organisation HP Drewry (Shipping Consultants). Those areas of the third stage relating to management and financial viability will be studied by Price Waterhouse Associates (International).

£5m orders for Crown House

ORDERS WORTH about £5m for installation of mechanical and electrical services have been gained by Crown House Engineering. For the Central Cardiff Development Area, where the main project consists of interconnecting malls between several large retail stores, Crown House is providing services under a contract valued at £710,000. The work is being undertaken for The Heron Corporation. Architects are J. Seymour Harris Partnership and the main contractor is S. H. Contractors.

Also within the Cardiff Development area will be the National Concert Hall for Wales and the company will install services here at a value of £218,000. The same architect is involved with Sandy Brown Associates as consulting engineers and John Laing Construction as main contractor. Another job is at the Red-ditch Town Centre Development where an extension to the existing Kingsfisher shopping centre plus flats is now underway. Yet another order, worth £1.4m is for electrical and mechanical services for the new terminal building at Sumburgh Airport, Shetland. Main contractor is G. Percy Tretham.

Over £8½m for Laing

IN CONTRACTS totalling about £8.7m, recently awarded to John Laing Construction, the largest is for fitting out part of a new office block in the City of London. Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York has awarded the £3.2m contract for the office complex, Angel Court, situated adjacent to the Stock Exchange. The company will fit out from sub-basement level to the fifth floor, together with the 19th floor, and the remaining floors will be sub-let. Work under this contract involves the erection of partitions, wall coverings, carpeting, construction of a suspended floor slab at mezzanine level, lift alterations, formation of a computer room, dealing rooms, staff dining area and executive guest dining rooms, together with modifications to the heating, ventilating, electrical and air-conditioning systems.

Southwest region of the company has won a £2m contract to give a facelift to a Regency crescent in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Second phase of a programme by the Guinness Trust in Lansdown Crescent, it provides for the conversion of 18 five storey terraced houses into 56 one and two-bedroom flats, 1 three-bedroom flat, 4 bedsitting rooms, and 30 one- and two-bedroomed maisonettes, while

retaining the original character of the building. Cheltenham Borough Council and the Historic Buildings Council are providing loan finance and grants. Work, which starts soon, involves gutting existing houses and re-planning their interiors by building new walls and putting in new floors, partitions, fittings and main services to meet modern standards. As much as possible of the original moulded joinery and plasterwork is to be retained and restored.

Under a contract worth about £1m, the south west region will also build a two-storey supermarket with shop units for Tesco at Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

This will include its own bakery and food preparation rooms, display area, offices, storage, staff room and canteen. Constructed at a site in Castle Street (and formed from adjacent existing buildings), both store and shops will have reinforced concrete columns on concrete pad foundations with a flat roof on steel frame. Architectural treatment is in keeping with the style of the market town. Present Cotswold stone facade is to be preserved while the main structure behind is to be rebuilt to modern standards and matched to the original appearance with a roof covering of natural stone.

£7½m Higgs & Hill award

WORK HAS now started on the new Crown Court complex in Leeds which is being built by Higgs and Hill Northern for the Property Services Agency under a contract for £7.5m. Contract covers construction of one single and one four-storey building on a prime site of about 10,000 square metres fronting on the main east-west thorough-

fare to the west of the Civic Hall. In addition to 14 Crown Courts and three County Courts, the premises will also provide extensive office accommodation. Main building will have a reinforced concrete frame and be brick clad with a hollow mould concrete floor and roof slabs. Project is scheduled for completion in July, 1981.

French Kier is kept busy

THREE French Kier Group companies have been awarded five contracts worth a total of £4.4m.

French Kier Construction has been awarded three of them, totalling £2.6m. One of these is for £1.8m and is for the construction of a sewage treatment works at Totnes, Devon. The work for the South West Water Authority is now starting.

Another contract, worth £193,268, is for the Central Electricity Generating Board and is for demolition work and a new access road at West Ham and Barking power stations, while yet another is for the Mobil oil refinery at Coryton (£540,083), and is for the construction and completion of two electrical sub-stations and work on a third sub-station.

Kier (RBW) has been

awarded a contract worth over £1m by East Sussex County Council as a further phase in the access to Hastings future industrial estate. Work is to be carried out over a 3½-kilometre length and will be mainly excavation amounting to 250,000 cubic metres. There will also be 1½ kilometres of complete single carriageway in flexible construction and main drainage will be installed over the complete length.

Finally, Kier Trinidad has won a £730,000 contract for the construction of an extension to chemical laboratories for the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad. Both buildings will be of two storeys, concrete framed with in situ concrete block walling. The contract includes electrical air conditioning, plumbing and laboratory equipment installation.

Bid for hire stakes

PLANS FOR strengthening its grip on the plant hire market have been announced by Agent Plant Hire.

One of its first moves has been the purchase of £1m worth of Simon hydraulic working platforms and Parker scissor lifts—it is understood that further purchase of plant are expected soon.

Uses for the equipment now

available from the company range from the servicing of high level lighting installations to bridge and aircraft inspection and building maintenance. Lorry-mounted hydraulic platforms offering lifts up to 60 ft are now in use and a new unit reaching up to 103 ft is on order.

The company's headquarters are at Lower Station Road, Crayford, Kent (0323 529121).

Work for Dutch group

THREE contracts, said to be worth a total of U.S.\$ 35m have been awarded to Hollandse Beton Groep NV companies.

For the Government of Qatar, Interbeton Qatar NV is to construct a harbour complex involving a slipway, jetty pavement and a number of buildings. Among other jobs for this company in Qatar are an outfall channel for the Qatar Chemical Company.

In Abu Dhabi, another

member of the group, Culibeton, is to carry out work in connection with the Mina Zayed harbour project. This contract calls for the construction of pavements and a number of buildings for the various harbour services.

Other new work for the group is in South America in Venezuela, where two hydraulic engineering contracts are to be undertaken on the Orinoco River.

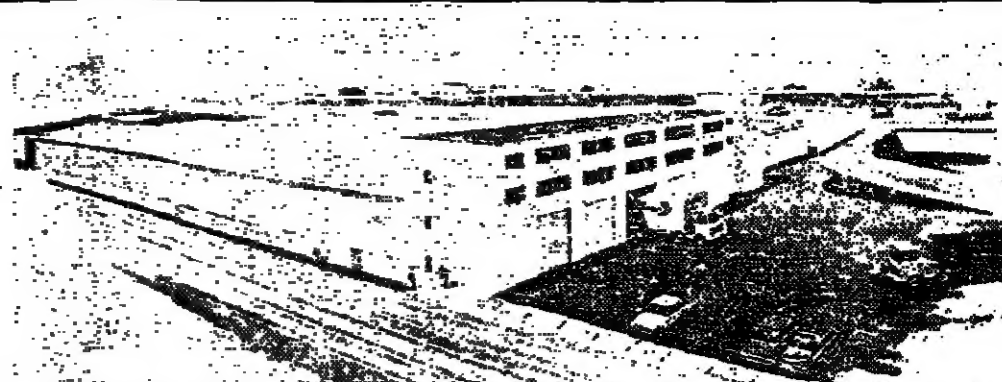
Awards to Mowlem

SIX CONTRACTS with a total value of £1.6m have been awarded to John Mowlem in the north of England. Largest job is worth £800,000, for building a supermarket and four shop units at Kirkstall, a Leeds suburb.

Other work, mainly housing, includes the completion of 34 houses and flats for Leeds County Council, a £250,000 contract awarded by Bradford and Northern Housing Association

to provide quality flats at Gaythorne Road, Bradford; and a contract at Heaton, awarded by Bradford Flower Fund Homes, to provide accommodation for the elderly.

Two special works contracts, valued together at £140,000, involve alterations to the Market Street, Bradford, branch of the National Westminster Bank and, at Pontefract General Infirmary, alterations to form a laboratory for bacteriology.



Impression of the warehouse and offices to be built at Brentford, Middx., by Henry Boot.

HENRY BOOT Construction Limited is undertaking an industrial management fee contract worth almost £500,000 at Brentford, Middlesex.

It is a warehouse and office development for King's House (St. James's Court), off the A4

Great West Road and involves construction of a 5,200m square metre single-storey, three-bay warehouse with attached 1,300m square metre two-storey office block. Completion is due in November.

Both buildings will have concrete-cased steel frames, with

brick and block external walls. The work also involves drainage, external services, roads, retaining walls and landscaping. A two-lane ramp will give vehicular access to and from the A4, which is about 10 ft above site level. The architect is the Baldwin-Everton Partnership.

Analysis of pile driving

OFFSHORE Services Group of Lloyd's Register has developed an interactive graphics system to assess the ability of hammers to drive individual piles and to indicate the dynamic stresses induced in the piles by driving operations.

The system, based on one-dimensional stress wave theory, has been implemented on one of Lloyd's Register's PDP-11 mini-computers and complements an existing program. It is able to select and plot data very quickly, thus assisting engineers to assimilate the results. It also allows engineers to perform parametric studies with a minimum of new input. Data can be checked on the computer display before the computer run is allowed to proceed, thus avoiding wasted runs. All the input is handled inter-

actively using the graphics terminal and, as a result, the input phase takes only about ten minutes. Input data includes pile idealisation and curves of dynamic unit skin friction, end bearing resistances, and damping values.

Following the analysis, the results can be displayed in a number of different ways—e.g., the variation of force, stress, velocity or displacement with time or along the pile length. Another option allows output to be displayed dynamically on a visual display unit. Consecutive frames show results at successive small time intervals giving, in effect, a slow motion picture of how the stress wave passes along the pile.

Lloyd's Register of Shipping, 71, Fenchurch Street, London EC3M 4BS (01-709 9166).

Replacing a big roof

PRODUCTION of heavy-duty axles and transmissions will continue at BL's Albion works on Clydeside while a new roof is installed 80 ft above the machine shop floor.

H. H. Robertson (UK) is to replace the 40-year-old roof—which contains large areas of glass—by 27,000 square metres of Galbestos (profiled steel sheet) under a £1.3m contract. Work starts in April.

Quantity surveyors are Godfrey and Burgess of Birmingham.

IN BRIEF

Consulting engineers Oscar Faber & Partners has changed the name of the firm to The Oscar Faber Partnership. It will be the parent practice of two operating partnerships to be known as Oscar Faber & Partners, St. Albans, and Oscar Faber & Partners, Manchester.

A spinning mill is to be built in Wakefield, West Yorkshire for M. P. Stenhouse by J. Cartwright Construction. Value of the contract is £287,000.

James Drewitt and Son is building a £312,000 day centre for the physically handicapped at Grosvenor Road, Weymouth, Dorset, for Dorset County Council Social Services Committee. Another job, worth £250,000 is for shops and offices in St. Thomas Street, Weymouth, for Federated Homes.

Cleveland Bridge and Engineering Co. has purchased the Liverpool based structural engineering company, Hughes and Ellison. The latter specialises in structural work for the petrochemical industry and employs some 300 people.



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THE MANAGEMENT PAGE

EDITED BY CHRISTOPHER LORENZ

PILKINGTON BROTHERS, the British inventor of the revolutionary float glass manufacturing process, is setting out to capture a significant slice of the major EEC flat glass markets where French-based conglomerates have held a virtual monopoly for the past decade.

The move will bring Pilkington into direct conflict with BSN-Gervais-Danone and Saint-Gobain-Pont-à-Mousson, which together came to dominate the Continental European flat glass markets following a series of takeovers and mergers in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

The decision to pursue a greater share of the European market forms a major plank in Pilkington's overseas expansion policy. The group will also increasingly seek strategic stakes in those overseas companies that take up licences on the float glass process.

This is in marked contrast to the group's earlier policy of seeking largely cash royalties and technical fees in return for licences. It is further evidence that Pilkington has become increasingly aware of the need to step up its investment in manufacturing and new products before the licence income from float starts to run out in the mid-1980s. When many of the major licences expire at this time, the licensees will no longer have to pay a royalty to use the float process.

The discovery by Pilkington some 20 years ago that flat glass could be made more cheaply and easily by floating it on a bath of molten tin has had an impact on glass-making similar to the effect Henry Ford's assembly-line had on car production.

The float process not only revolutionised flat glass production but acted as a spur to an extensive rationalisation within the glass industry, the effects of which have still not been fully resolved.

Concentrated

Pilkington's discovery of float forced other glass manufacturers in the 1960s to switch production techniques almost overnight and the high cost of installing new plant meant that only the larger cash rich organisations could survive. The result has been to increase the concentration of manufacturing power within a small group of companies operating out of the UK, France, Japan and the US. Pilkington, unlike its rivals, has been able to use royalties from its float glass process—almost £120m in the past five years—as a springboard to expand and modernise production. It is currently spending around £70m to build its fifth UK float glass plant.

Other manufacturers have been less fortunate: in 1972 the

Andrew Taylor describes how Britain's major glass manufacturer is planning for the time when licensing income from its revolutionary float glass process begins to decline during the mid-1980s

Pilkington: out to crack new markets

strain became too much for Glaverbel, Belgium's largest flat glass producer. After a brief struggle Glaverbel was taken over by BSN-Gervais-Danone—one of the two French flat glass majors.

Glaverbel's problems were two-fold. It badly needed cash to build a second float line at a time when one of its major export markets, the US, building industry, had turned sour. Its export position—and the group relied heavily on exports generally—had not been helped by the imposition of a 10 per cent import surcharge in the US.

Its acquisition by BSN meant a further concentration of manufacturing capacity and prompted a monopolies investigation by the European Commission which was concerned that BSN would control around 60 per cent of the EEC window glass market. Indeed, the tight grip held by BSN and Saint-Gobain-Pont-à-Mousson on the continental European markets has twice been criticised by the French authorities for its monopolistic tendencies.

This pattern of concentration is not unique to Europe, however. It has been emulated in a few selected countries, with the result of creating a sharply defined geographical markets in which individual companies have developed a vertical monopoly. Indeed Pilkington's overseas expansion has largely been concentrated in former Commonwealth countries such as Canada, South Africa and Australia or countries with strong traditional ties with the UK such as Sweden. And in the US, flat glass manufacture is dominated by PPG Industries, Libby-Owens-Ford and the Ford Motor group, which makes most of its own glass for its car and truck production.

Pilkington denies the existence of mutually agreed oligopolies but admits that spheres of influence have arisen largely because of historical reasons. It was natural for Pilkington to pursue Commonwealth countries as export markets while it would have been difficult and "dangerous" to attempt to capture a large slice of the US market, it says.

Part of the latest development programme is to expand into the EEC markets. In 1971 exports to Europe totalled £6.5m,

representing 5 per cent of group sales. Last year this total had risen to £65.6m, representing 14 per cent of group sales.

While this total still represents only a small share of the European market, Pilkington believes that it will be able to raise this through increased exports from its four UK plants—with a fifth due to come on stream in 1980—and from its £30m Swedish float plant opened several years ago. The group does not see any current need to build a new plant on the Continent to supply these markets.

The European flat glass market like the UK market has been going through a rough time since 1973 as the industry's major customers, the construction and the car industry, moved into recession following the oil crisis.

BSN was particularly badly hit as it was spending heavily on replacement float capacity at a time of recession. Between 1974 and 1977 net attributable losses from BSN's flat glass division totalled Ffr 516m while over the same period new investment totalled Ffr 1.2m.

Diversified

Equally Saint-Gobain's flat glass operations faced serious difficulties in the mid 1970s but the European flat glass market now appears to be picking up as construction activity in particular has been improving.

Both Saint-Gobain and BSN are widely diversified in terms of glass and other products and this broad spread of interests provides some shelter in times of recession. Pilkington now is attempting to extend its glass interests at the same time as it seeks new markets for flat glass.

The group's Swedish experience brought it into direct conflict with Saint-Gobain which, having rejected the opportunity of taking a stake in the float glass plant strengthened its Scandinavian operations through a series of mergers in what the French group described as a major defensive operation. A spokesman for Saint-Gobain said that the group probably would not have stepped up its involvement in Sweden but for the increased presence of Pilkington.

Pilkington has more recently been linked with Saint-Gobain



Sir Alastair Pilkington: looking for expansion with new products.

Terry Kirk

and also BSN—both, of course, following its acquisition of strategic stakes in two Brazilian glass companies. As a result of various share deals all three will have a stake in a new Brazilian float plant—the first to be built in South America. Relations between the three, however, may be further strained. Although Saint-Gobain claims the controlling interest, Pilkington is understood to be determined to control the running and management of the new plant.

EXECUTIVE HEALTH

The harsh winter brings fewer soft tissue injuries

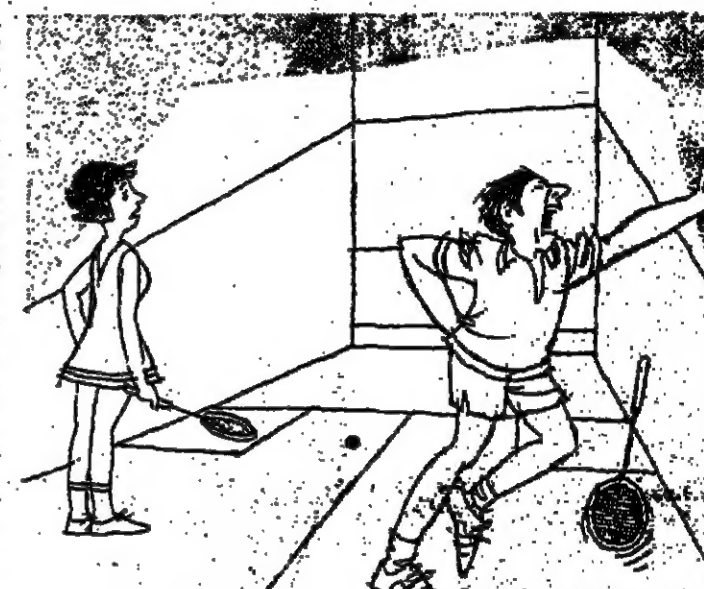
WHEN THE blue tinge came tapping urgently and indignantly at my window in late October, some six weeks earlier than usual, I was rather pleased, particularly so when I noticed the unusual splendour of their plumage. Pleased because, over many years of observing country weather-love, I felt certain that a severe winter was on the way.

Many may consider my pleasure to be somewhat perverse. However, my delight was motivated by sheer selfishness because I hoped that, if those tiny forecasters were right, then there would be a reduction in the number of soccer and rugby fixtures and, therefore, a similar reduction in the Monday legion of the

halt and the lame limping in to seek magical cures to enable them to injure themselves again on the following Saturday.

So it has indeed come to pass. Since the last days of December, snow has prevented play on slushy ground has cushioned the impact of sweaty men on slimy soil. And even the jogging craze has been dampened so that the over-enthusiastic seekers of eternal life have been disheartened and the number of those suffering from the results of manic pounding and wobbling too far too soon, has decreased. True this has been slightly offset by an increase in fractures and dislocations among the obsessive, superbly fit, twenty-milers slipping on ice even before flying off to enjoy skiing accidents in more expensive countries.

But some games can be played indoors, notably those involving racquets. And, alas, many novices, frustrated by outdoor forms of masochism, have been stumbling into trouble. In my experience, the regular, first-class amateur player seldom suffers serious injuries. But our novice not infrequently over-exerts himself and, through bad technique coupled with over-enthusiasm, can obtain a variety of injuries, varying from teno-synovitis (a painful condition due to sudden insults tendon-sheaths through which the tendons have to pass). Not only can the pain be considerable, but response to treatment is usually very slow. Indeed, such treatment is embarrassingly negative, consisting only of resting of the parts involved, which is not easy when wrists are the commonest sites.



...too agonised to continue...

Tennis-elbow is common. The condition may occur slowly after over-use or quite suddenly following a sudden, unorthodox manoeuvre. There is pain, felt chiefly on the outer edge of the elbow, accompanied by swelling. The disorder is usually due to damage or tearing of muscle fibres. Fluid then accumulates so that the pain is added stiffness of the joint and weakness of the arm. Alas, apart from occasionally successful injections, partial immobilisation of the arm is still the quickest method of healing.

and by quickest I mean some weeks, or even months.

With the novice not coached by a professional (who is seldom injured because his livelihood depends on caution) trouble may even come to a good amateur coach. The reason is, psychologically interesting. One such incident is worth mentioning. A very good squash player came to me complaining of back-pain due to fibrositis. Now I, fancying myself as a Sherlock Holmes, suggested to the patient that he must have been playing with a novice. He was surprised because the deduction was accurate. How did I

"Ten Twenty" safety glass and the long term prospects for its new glass fibre-reinforced-concrete process which it plans to sell under licence—although it recognises that the process cannot have the same impact on the construction industry as float had on the glass industry.

Ophthalmics—especially spectacle lens products—provide a third main product arm, though plans here received a setback when the Monopolies Commission two years ago blocked the group's proposed takeover of UKO International, the UK spectacle lens manufacturer. However, Pilkington is now poised to acquire Solar Holdings, which controls around 90 per cent of its local Australian market for plastic spectacle lenses and just as importantly 10 per cent of the comparable US market.

This will give Pilkington its first major involvement in the US: it does export flat glass there from its two Canadian plants and from the UK but this represents only around 2 per cent of the total US flat glass market.

Pilkington, which in the past has been criticised for not making the best use of its float invention, believes that the development of new markets for float glass aligned with its diversification into new technology and products will provide it with a strong base into the 1980s. While Sir Alastair has accelerated this process the job of making it work will fall to Mr. Antony Pilkington, who will take over as chairman in 1980.

Meanwhile, however, Pilkington's European glass rivals are not likely to take too kindly to the company's more aggressive designs on a market which has long regarded as its own.

BY DR. DAVID CARRICK

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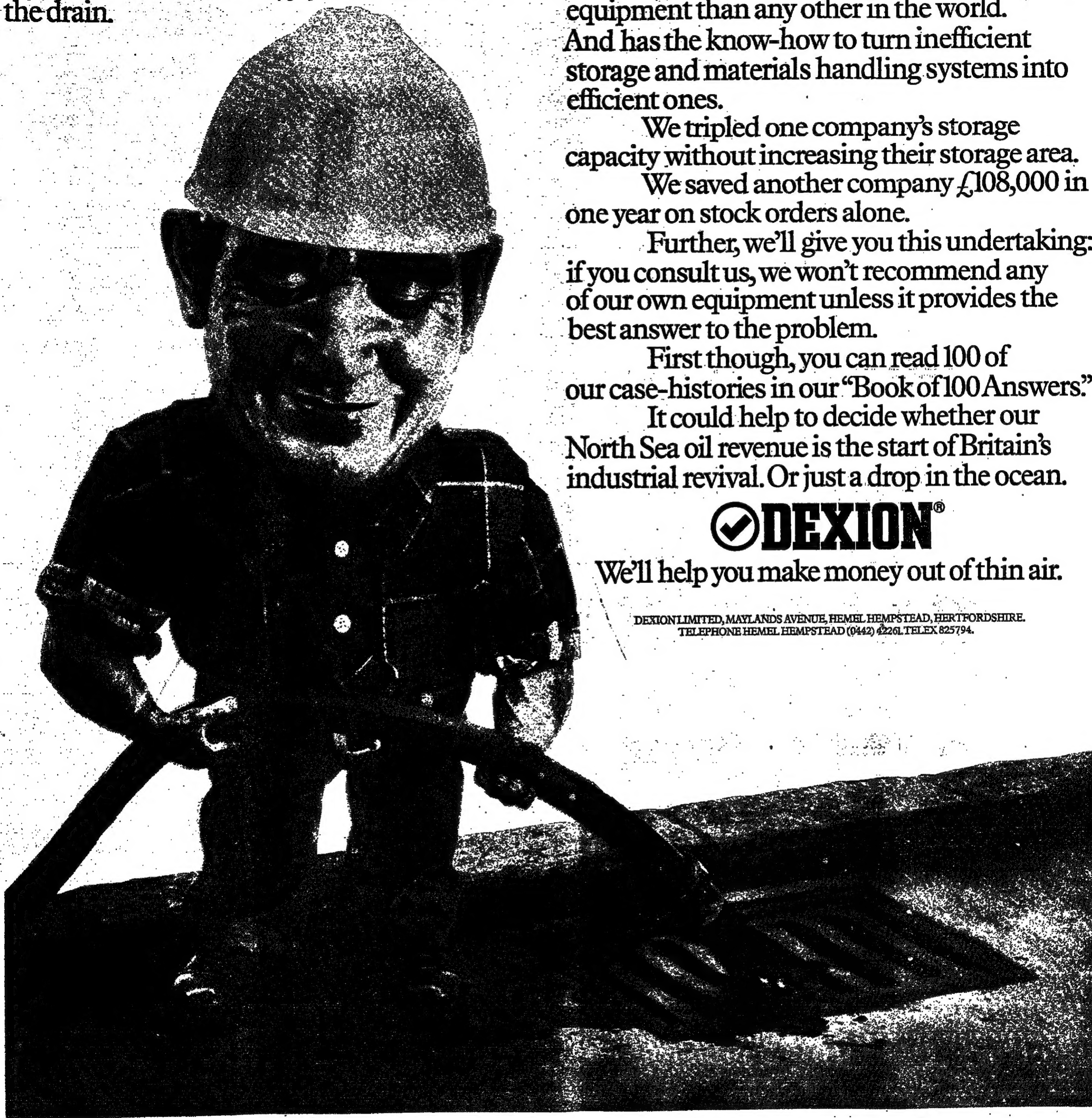
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Where half of North Sea oil is going this year.

LOMBARD

The search for spending cuts

BY PETER RIDDELL

CUTS IN public spending below the level planned for the next couple of years are now obviously back on the Whitehall agenda—to be introduced either by the present government in the budget or, later, after the election. However, the process is still at a very early stage and there is still scope for avoiding some of the main mistakes of past cut packages.

Part of the problem is simply the way the cuts exercises are undertaken. There is never any shortage of suggestions. Indeed, as part of the annual PESC review spending departments are required to submit proposals for cuts of 2 per cent in the volume of spending as well as additions.

It is, however, a major weakness in both the normal PESC system and in the cuts exercises that the emphasis is always on a small margin either way. An incremental approach is inevitable to the extent that a large percentage of each department's budget is effectively committed for at least 18 months, if not three years, ahead. But there is the danger that spending departments will always seek obvious cuts, the items that can be restored later.

Cosmetic cuts

This can lead to the adoption of largely cosmetic cuts. It is certainly true that the three reviews of spending in 1975-76 produced a fundamental change of direction in the growth of public expenditure compared with the previous three years. But a significant part of the cuts only consisted of one-off and/or adjustments, such as the sale of BP shares and other financial transfers. These were included merely to reduce public sector borrowing to acceptable levels. The presence of these items in 1977-78, and their absence in the current financial year, explains much of the 70 per cent effect of a drop of 7.2 per cent in spending one year followed by a rise of 6.3 per cent in the next.

The Government is rightly concerned with a stable framework for public expenditure planning, but the way to achieve this is not through cosmetic devices. The real answer is to have a more fundamental review of programmes and this will involve measuring their effectiveness and impact compared with their ostensible objectives. It may be difficult, if not impossible, to build a detailed system

of "zero-based budgeting" into the PESC framework but it is reasonable to go beyond haggling around the edges to ask whether the overall balance of programmes is right.

In the past, a lot of attention has been focussed on the balance between capital and current spending. The White Paper estimated that in the current financial year public sector investment would be 26 per cent lower in real terms than in 1975-76 (with little change over the next few years) while current expenditure would be 5.1 per cent higher. It is certainly true that it is politically easier to cut capital programmes than to sack public sector staff.

But as the Treasury has pointed out, the amount of investment needed now in certain categories is possibly lower than in the early 1970s because of the earlier investment and demographic changes. However, an aging stock of public sector capital will eventually have to be replaced.

The more important question of balance in the long-term may be between expenditure on goods and services and on transfer payments. In the current financial year goods and services spending is estimated to be 3.8 per cent lower than in 1975-76 while transfer payments are likely to be 10.8 per cent higher. Moreover the two categories are expected to grow by 5.7 per cent and 8.8 per cent respectively between now and 1982-83, and the latter may be an understatement in view of possible commitments of the contingency reserves. Transfer payments are likely to be pushed up by demographic changes, notably an expected rise in the number of pensioners.

The focus

This does not, however, mean that the present distribution of cash benefits and subsidies is ideal or unchangeable. Indeed, an article in the January issue of *Economic Trends* shows that for a large number of households in the middle of the income range, tax payments are only slightly less or more than cash benefits and subsidies, they receive. This type of overlap in, for example, housing subsidies as well as social security benefits could provide the focus for a major part of any spending review.

THIRTY YEARS AGO when this country blazed the trail of modern systems of legal aid, as part of the nascent social services, Parliament proclaimed that its purpose was to make legal aid, advice and assistance available to people of "small and moderate means". The Legal Aid and Advice Act 1949 in the early years of its life came close to fulfilling that promise. Anyone could obtain legal services at a price which he could afford—that is, if he knew how to use the services that the legal profession supplied and if he was not daunted by the prospect of going to a lawyer.

But for years now the proportion of the population qualifying for assistance under the scheme has been falling steadily. Until the point has been reached where the only people who can afford legal services are the poor and the rich.

The vast bulk of the population—those whom Parliament dubbed as being of moderate means—are faced with heavy, if not prohibitive costs. The reason is that the scales for qualifying have not kept pace with the cost of the scheme, or with inflation. In 1950 the cost of the civil legal aid scheme in England and Wales to the taxpayer was £500,000; today it is £44.5m. In 1950, 80 per cent of the population was eligible for civil legal aid. The proportion is now down to 25 per cent.

The Lord Chancellor, in Intro-

ducing last Thursday, the Legal Aid Bill in the House of Lords, was able to state that the first, legislative step towards restoring the status quo was being made. By raising substantially the financial limits of disposable capital and disposable income (which means income after tax, rent or mortgage and other necessary expenses such as travelling and work have been deducted, and allowances made for dependants in the form of other deductions) and lowering the rate of contributions of the legally-aided towards their costs, a significant improvement will be achieved.

At least 70 per cent of households with two adults and two children will become eligible for legal aid, advice and assistance. And well over 30 per cent will get it free.

How has it been possible at this time of economic stringency to find extra money for a crucial part of social services? Mainly the money has come from savings made over the past few years by cutting the cost of legal aid for divorce proceedings. Until the change in the divorce laws at the beginning of the 1970s matrimonial proceedings gobbled up a large proportion of the state's financing of legal proceedings. Now that divorce has become almost an administrative process the actual legal untying achieved with little fuss and much less legal cost.

Most notable in the debate on the Bill's Second Reading

was the absence of any hint of conflict between the legal-aid scheme, which provides financial assistance to the individual citizen in relation to his specific legal problem that may or may not involve litigation, and the financing of neighbourhood law centres. The latter have sprung up in the past few years in response to the growing feeling that there is a vast unmet need

about advertising, and about lawyers sharing their earnings with non-lawyers. Ultimately, under some political pressure, the professional rules in favour of those public-spirited lawyers who wanted to work in the law centres. Today, if all the suspicion has not disappeared, there is little, if any hostility on the part of the profession;

The one major problem that law centres have faced has been from their local politicians whose local authorities might actually have been funding the centres. Some law centres have gone beyond the casework technique of legal action, and have actively involved themselves in organising tenants' associations to take action politically against their landlords. In many instances the landlord is the local authority.

However, there can be little doubt that law centres are here to stay as a vital component in the nation's legal services.

The Lord Chancellor himself acknowledged that additional law centres are urgently needed to ensure that all sections of the community have adequate access to legal services, and some modest financial support from the central government is forthcoming. But any large-scale development will have to await the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Legal Services, due to publish its report this summer.

The most significant aspect of the law centre movement has been its ability to conquer the ordinary citizen's frail attitude to going to law. People know that they should go to a solicitor for their divorce, they suspect that they ought to consult him about making their will, and, with few exceptions, they feel impelled to go to a solicitor whenever they are buying or selling a house. But otherwise they are determined to stay

away from the clutches of the law. There is a built-in antipathy for the law and for lawyers. But the achievement of the law centres is that they have demonstrated to the citizens who have used them that many of the problems can be and are successfully handled by lawyers acting in conjunction and support of other social services.

The Lord Chancellor proudly boasted that the legal aid scheme in its 30 years had aided 3m people in the grant of legal aid certificates. That indeed has been a significant contribution to the problem of financing people in their litigation. But it is an infinitesimal number when one measures the host of legal problems that face most people every week of their lives.

Citizens' Advice Bureaux and other voluntary social agencies have over the years manifoldly provided a skeleton service in the few who have been enabled to bring their problems, mostly to unqualified people, and the law centres have been part of the original legal aid movement, there would not today have been quite the scramble for the meagre resources available to keep both sectors of legal services functioning together.

As it is, the immediate future will be concerned with how best to cut the limited cake between the complementary branches of legal services. The Law Centres, as late starters, deserve an initial large helping.

THE WEEK IN THE COURTS

BY JUSTINIAN

in the public for legal services. If no one has been able to measure the precise extent of this need, there is little doubt that the mushrooming of the law centre movement has brought legal services within the geographical compass (solicitors are usually clustered around the centres of big cities and are few in number in the poor neighbourhoods of urban areas) and less daunting facilities for the populace.

When the law centres first appeared there was trepidation among the legal profession that there was a threat to their livelihoods from salaried lawyers financed publicly or through the legal aid scheme. Clients might actually be diverted from the solicitors' offices. The Law Society was initially slow to relax the professional rules

indeed there is a good deal of co-operation and a division of work between solicitors and law centres.

In fact, far from there being cut-throat competition for clients, the existence of the law centre in the High Street has actually generated legal work that has benefited the solicitors and barristers. Law centres have been inundated with work in the field of housing, social security and employment. The same clients who had matrimonial problems or cases in the criminal courts have frequently been diverted to the traditional law firms. And legal action on behalf of tenants has sent the rival landlords scurrying to their solicitors for legal assistance. Legal business all round has been booming.

Major Thompson and Gaffer look like hurdle champions

IT SEEMS more than possible that we saw both the 1979 Gold Cup and Champion Hurdle winners in action at Newbury on Saturday.

Although Major Thompson failed to defy top weight in the Schweppes, it may well be that his second-place run was an even more encouraging effort with the Waterford Crystal Champion Hurdle in mind than Gaffer's Compton Chase success with an eye to the Piper Champagne Gold Cup.

Trying to defy 12 st in the Schweppes—a pound more than Persian War shouldered before the first of his three consecutive Cheltenham triumphs—the O'Neill-ridden Major Thompson looked all set to tackle his stable-mate, Within The Law, when the riderless Ruby Wine began to lead on the hundred yards from home, giving the champion jockey little

chance to ride one of his power-house finishes.

Although the three-quarters-of-length winning margin might not have been completely whittled away but for Ruby Wine's unhelpful attentions to the top weight, there is no doubt that the result would have gone to a photograph had O'Neill been given every opportunity.

In view of the fact that the winner, in receipt of 10 lbs from his stable-mate on Saturday, was going smoothly and

launching himself over the penultimate flight in Cheltenham's Bull Hurdle last time out, there is every reason to anticipate a bold showing from Major Thompson on March 14.

Top quoted at 9-1 for the Champion Hurdle, Peter Easterby's five-year-old strikes me as an infinitely better betting proposition at present than any of the other intended starters including the 2-1 favourite, Monkfield who is clearly an unusually game though far from exceptional reigning champion.

Gaffer, now the winner of successive races at Wincanton, Kempton and Newbury within the space of seven weeks, beat Royal Mail strictly on merit in the Compton Chase showing in the process that he will lack neither through jumping limitations nor stamina problems next month.

RACING

BY DARE WIGAN

poised to tackle Birds Nest and Coughtanger Hurdle when inexorably coming through the rails a couple of strides before

OPERA & BALLET

COVENT GARDEN 01-240 5288.
ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA
 Season 1978-79
 Orestes and Electra in Opera
 Tonight 6.30 p.m. 7.30 p.m. 8.30 p.m.
 Tomorrow 12.30 p.m. 2.30 p.m. 4.30 p.m.
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THE ARTS

Birmingham Rep

The Merchant of Venice

by B. A. YOUNG

"Venice is the one city Shakespeare really characterises," says Professor Bradbrook in her latest delightful book, *Shakespeare: the Poet in his World* (Weidenfeld and Nicolson, \$6.95). But still, Pyralis directing *The Merchant of Venice* for the Birmingham Rep, is caught up on Barry Jackson: "Shakespeare in his plays clearly cared little about details of historical accuracy."

So Venice is laid out on the Rep's great stage as a flat surface, paved by three entries to an imaginary subway and fenced in by a wall of swivelling panels, a Venetian blind as it were, laid on its side. White-painted barriers are moved about by stage-hands between the scenes, to no discernible purpose.

Poppy Mitchell is the designer, but the costumes are by Priscilla Truett. Antonio, Shylock and the Duke wear decent modern suits (though Antonio starts in a tunic and arrives at Belmont in a dinner-jacket). The young men prefer anoraks, T-shirts and so on and look like stable-lads out for a stroll. The girls wear dresses that fall below the ankle.

So Barry Jackson's theory that the "old, unhappy, far-off things" could be given "the vividness and actuality of present-day happenings" is sabotaged at once. Bassanio and his gang could never have belonged to the same world as the wealthy merchant Antonio, respected and respectable. Yet moving among them is one character who stands out as wholly credible (I mean in the

old-fashioned, non-political sense)—Shylock. With his black hat, gloves and well-rolled umbrella, Paul Rogers is the very pattern of a successful businessman who can discuss a loan with Roger Shylock's Antonio as between equals. When the yobos imitate him crying "My ducats and my daughter!" they are imitating their idea of a Jew, not this dignified figure. Only when the case goes against him at the trial does despair take over; then Mr. Rogers sags slowly into an S, his head drooping forward, his knees bending, until at last, defeated, he folds up completely, on his knees before the court. It is a fine performance.

Under his punk exterior, Paul Hastings often sounds like a real Bassanio but I think Mr. Pyralis actually means him to be a punk, for he lets David Haig's Launcelot Gobbo put his arm around his neck as if they were mates. The Princes of Morocco and Aragon are both Bassanio in disguise, which makes nonsense of the story, for having discovered what was in the gold and silver caskets he would on his third appearance have gone straight to the lead, wouldn't he?

Stan Thomas as Portia is a nice, intelligent girl; she sings "Where is fancy bred?" very prettily, and speaks "The quality of mercy" quite beautifully. I liked Seymour Green as the Duke; but as soon as Portia arrives in her judicial wig he is sent off upstage to let the trial get on by itself.

Festival Hall

Concertgebouw Orchestra

by RONALD CRICHTON

For the last London concert of their tour, on Friday evening, the Amsterdam orchestra under Saklin gave a radiant performance of Mahler's Fifth Symphony. As an interpretation it lay between the kind of lucid but impersonal laying-out which tells much but not the whole story and the over-personalised approach heading for blinding emotion all the time. On the technical side it provided a nourishing demonstration of orchestral euphony in which the Mahlerian extremes of dynamics, timbre and feeling, the streak of hysteric rancour and stridency, the so nearly cloying sweetness, were kept in proportion. And since the proportions were just, there was a whirlwind of energy left for the gathering-up of threads in the finale.

The Concertgebouw strings have a warmth through the whole register different from the Viennese shot-silk sensuousness, the Berlin brilliance or the sheer comforting weight of other leading German string sections. The brass are extraordinary: the immense range of colour called for in this symphony was got without trace of exaggeration. Everything was there, the particular, almost facile public grief which Mahler captures unerringly in the funeral march, the haunting sense of private associations half-shared in the horn calls of the scherzo. Between the horn calls came one of several examples (this applies of course not only to the brass) of per-

fectly graded soft chords. There was something serene and unobtrusive about the discipline of this performance that made the playing glow not with polish externally applied but with light from inside.

To precede the Mahler with Haydn's Symphony No. 86 from the Paris set was astute. This is a big work, bigger than may be implied by the speed and lightness of the outer movements, with a relatively suitably unaccountable "Capriccio" slow movement and a broadly designed minuet and trio. There is a Mahlerian incisiveness in the scoring (clarity with Haydn can be taken for granted) and the temper of the music, all allowances made for dissimilar period and circumstances, is not so far removed from the Fifth.

The Haydn was given with immaculate control and evenness. Woodwind were burnished, there was a delicate lilt to the waltz-trio of the minuet. Yet wasn't vitality or anything so obvious as rustic colouring (there was an indoor feel, but Haydn no doubt allowed for the distance between Paris and his Hungarian solitude). There was clearly total respect for the text. Yet Haydn didn't suggest as he unfailingly does with Mahler, profound sympathy with the accumulated experience in the music. Haydn, though his life was outwardly comparatively uneventful and he would have shied away from Mahler's degree of egocentricity, drew on plenty of experience.



Marjorie Yates, Christian Burgess, Gil Bralley, Peter-Hugo Daly and Mark Wing-Davey

Olivier

A Fair Quarrel

by B. A. YOUNG

The most interesting thing about *A Fair Quarrel* is its depiction of the roaring boys, with their private language. To say it is the most interesting thing is not very much, for *A Fair Quarrel* is not a very interesting play; but roaring boys turn up quite a lot in the literature of the period (early 17th century), and it is nice to have a close-up of them. No doubt in another three centuries and a half there will be a similar interest in the punks.

If it were not for the roaring boys, the play would have little interest. It is about the worst-composed comedy I ever saw in my life. You would think that Thomas Middleton wrote one of its two plots in one place and William Rowley the other somewhere else, for there is virtually no connection between them. Only by making Russell, the wealthy City man with the marriageable daughter Jane, the brother to Lady Ager, mother of the fighting Captain, do the two plots come together. Their several casts only share the stage at the very beginning and at the very end.

Brooklyn Academy of Music

The Dodger Theatre

The Brooklyn Academy of Music has turned to another Englishman, David Jones, to head the BAM Theatre Company. An artistic director with the Royal Shakespeare Company for many years, David Jones takes over in September the job previously held by Frank Dunlop.

Several seasons ago, at Broadway's lowest ebb, London's West End and repertory companies came through with the most notable productions to appear in New York. One of the longer beneficiaries of that deliverance was Frank Dunlop's arrangement with the Brooklyn Academy of Music, where for two years he provided a handsome mix of classics and unexpected revivals. That arrangement ended abruptly early this season with disagreements over control of the company and the ultimate authority in a quasi-public body like BAM. It is a failing of the

American government's ritualistic aversion to interfering in the arts that the people able to solicit public funds are also invested with sole authority to dispose of them. The administrator becomes the intermediary between artist and patron, but unfortunately, administrators do not necessarily make good directors.

Frank Dunlop will be missed in New York. That is the bad news. The good news is that a new repertory company has been formed out of the remnants of one that had been at BAM before Dunlop arrived. The new company, called the Dodger Theatre, could not have had much time to put together what turned out to be a stunning performance of Barrie Keeffe's thoroughly British play *Gimme Shelter*. Part of the thorough Britishness of the production was the sheer mastery of his cast as a form of masculine competitiveness. The lowering of a room on to

consciousness. Barrie Keeffe is obviously of the Arts Lab generation of young playwrights. The three acts of *Gimme Shelter* were originally three one-act plays produced at the Scho Poly in London. Revolution by now has devolved to sitting alone at the firm's annual cricket outing, spouting class slogans and mocking the firm's cricketers in the secure knowledge that they could do better. Leading this hearty band of malcontents is Kev, played by Richard Backus, who keeps his young athletic cronies (Philip Casnoff) in line while sending a student (Brad O'Hare) working with the firm for the summer. Rounding out the group is Janet, a sensible young woman (Randy Danson) who has no interest in being chased by the older men in the office, but feels equally uncomfortable when Kev spouts his cant as a form of masculine competitiveness. The lowering of a room on to

what was a cricket pitch in the previous scene marks an entirely different second act.

The last act brings some of these people together at the next company outing, by which time the kid has become a sheepish groundsman. Kev is himself playing cricket and Janet is about to deliver a baby scarcely nine months after marrying a taxi driver. The last act has obviously been concocted to put some common ground under the first two, but it does provide an amusing encounter between the groundsman and Kev. Kev recalls with great admiration the revolutionary act of the school-leaver, while the poor young man would do anything to have the incident forgotten. Des McAnuff's directing, Elizabeth Smith's voice coaching, and the evocative set stylized by Stuart Wurzel do the work justice and hold out high hopes for the Dodger Theatre.

FRANK LIPSITZ

Wigmore Hall

Shostakovich Quartets

by RONALD CRICHTON

The Fitzwilliam Quartet have special knowledge and understanding of the string quartets of Shostakovich. They were in personal contact with the composer, who enabled them to give the first British performances of the last three, who paid a visit to York, where the Fitzwilliam were resident quartet at the University, to hear them play No.13, and who remained in touch with them up to his death. On Saturday they embarked on a complete cycle at the Wigmore Hall. They have done this already at Warwick and, on gramophone records (all made, one still to be issued), for Oiseau-Lyre. There was a good audience for the first concert and a respectable attendance for the talk given earlier in the day by Alan George, the quartet's viola player, spokesman and note-writer.

The "series" trick, meaningless however profitable when played yet again with Beethoven, Brahms or even Elgar, is worth playing for a composer like Shostakovich whose popularity, though by now generally assured, does not extend to such an important field as the 15 quartets. The quartets are not contrabass as Bartok's have been and Schoenberg's for many still are. Since Shostakovich's output was large his quartets cannot, like Debussy's or Ravel's, for instance, be dealt with by the fairly regular occurrence of a single work. Nor do they, like Beethoven's, reflect the composer's career as a whole. When Shostakovich wrote his first String Quartet he was over 30 and had five symphonies to his credit. Unlike the symphonies (or at least many of the movements in

them), the quartets are essentially private as opposed to public music—a diary, carefully written and not merely jottings, exploratory, careful drawings, not merely sketches.

The Fitzwilliam programmes are arranged roughly but not strictly chronologically. Saturday's included the First, Third and Fourth Quartets. The First is an engagingly modest start for a composer well into his stride in other forms. It began as a simple exercise and remained unambitious in scope and style, though by no means inept. The writing is treacherously transparent. This was the only point of the programme where the playing showed any signs of not having settled down, but the one or two tiny bluffs (which would have slipped by unnoticed in anything more densely written) were not the kind that come from inadequate preparation.

In fact the Fitzwilliam's Shostakovich has the double advantage of a close and fruitful intimacy with the music still incapable (not of staidness, from which these artists are unlikely to suffer) but of the semi-automatic, gliding expertly-over-the-surface response which some ensembles fall back on in music they have toured too often. To the remarkable Third Quartet, whose later movements travel so unexpectedly far from the misleading playful opening, the players brought full sonority and where necessary biting attack. Equally admirable but quite different was the poised and sustained clarity of the tranquil, even-keeled, extremely beautiful Fourth. Remaining concerts February 21, March 3, 14 and 24.

Albany, Deptford

One Gun Salute

by MICHAEL COVENEY

Shortly after my last visit to this friendly café-theatre in Deptford, the premises were gutted by fire, the roof destroyed. That incident occurred last July and the damage amounted to \$60,000. Thanks, to insurance, a Job Recreation grant, a fund-raising appeal and the hard work of two resident carpenters, the Albany re-opened in December. Arson has never been proved, but feeling against the place was running high among local National Front personnel, on account of the Albany's association with the Rock Against Racism campaign. In May, the Front had fielded 26 candidates in neighbouring Lewisham's local elections.

Small-theatres that burn down—such as the old Unity—rarely re-open, so the achievement of Jenny Harris and her colleagues must be gratefully acknowledged. Supported annually by the Arts Council to the tune of £50,000, with help from the local authorities, the venue obviously provides a valuable community service; its 180 seats are invariably packed for the theatre shows on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings. The bar does a flourishing trade and hot meals are available. You may smoke. Brecht would have approved.

So much for the good news. The present show, by John Turner, is an extremely facile look at the Welfare State society through the unfocused lens of a family scrapard business and the love story of a war veteran now employed by the

DHSS and his coloured girlfriend who, thanks to the assistance of a pair of apocalyptic rag-and-bone merchants, investigates her man's mysterious self-immolation. But did the gun shot really kill him? If so, why? Was it because his sister-in-law made hay with a salesman profligate? Or because of the strain of supporting the unemployed? Or merely because of a pain in the shoulder?

Miss Harris's production involves the misdirected talents of such fringe trouperas as Kevin Costello, Aviva Goldkorn, John Burrows and Mary Sheen, but it sinks continuously under the weight of banality imposed by the cloying script. Playwrights such as David Hare and Stephen Lowe have long since covered this ground from the intelligent viewpoint of a benefiting generation. Mr. Turner, however, falls into all the predictable traps of misreading history and colouring what he sees with the trite noise of dissenting cliché.

The evening is almost saved by the excellence of Rick Lloyd's music, splendidly played by Rough Edge and superbly sung by the Albany's resident star, Debbie Bishop. Miss Bishop, the Joan Armistead of South London, really knows how to strut her stuff and, if the rest had been very much better, I could have recommended a visit on account of her contribution alone. As it is, alas, I cannot. The soft centre of politically sentimental tosh would insult even the least demanding type of reflex Marxist.

CRICKET BY TREVOR BAILEY IN SYDNEY

Worst Australia XI in memory

THE ATTENDANCE on the first two days of the Final Test at Sydney was disappointing—only about half the number who turned up a week ago on the same ground to watch the clash between Test Australia and the Rest of the World.

The small crowd represented a clear indication of how disillusioned supporters have become with the Australian national team, who have already lost the Ashes and look to be heading for another heavy defeat.

It cannot have helped that the English batsmen have, in the main, relied successfully and correctly on graft to attain their objective of winning matches.

On the first day, the Australians were dismissed for a paltry 198 although the pitch was easy paced and, if it had not been for a splendid century from Yallop, the captain, it would have been a rout. This was the eighth occasion in 11 innings in this series when they have been shot out for under 200 and they are clearly the worst Australian batting side in living memory.

All credit to a well-balanced England attack which gives nothing away is well directed by Brearley and superbly supported

in the field, but nothing can conceal the lack of class in the opposing batting.

To make matters even more difficult for themselves, Australia's running between the wickets has been erratic, often suicidal. They have regularly presented England with unnecessary wickets through bad calling; and yesterday's debacle began with yet another stupid run-out.

When heavy rain ended play at tea England had reached 216 for four, largely due to a careful 48 from Brearley, a hard-hit 74 by Gooch—his best knock out here—and a most attractive unfinished partnership between Gower and Botham.

There is obviously more fun and laughter to be found in traditional cricket than in WSC with its heavy dependence on cash.

The team spirit in the English dressing room is very high and has had much to do with Brearley's team being able to come back after appearing to be well beaten on several occasions earlier in the tour.

Although a WSC player is very well paid he certainly has to work far harder for his money. Packer's Australians, for

example, at the end of their season had to play four consecutive limited-over matches, which would probably have been five if the administrators had remembered to inform the umpires and the West Indies of a change in the rules.

This was quickly followed by the WSC version of Test cricket which is far more exhausting than a proper Test because the 30 hours of playing time are packed into four days with no rest.

That final session, lasting three-and-a-half hours and ending at 10.30 pm may be fine entertainment, but is hardly conducive to good batting, which is maybe why the scores were often so small, despite the number of high quality batsmen on parade.

This season, Denis Ames, who experienced a bad run-less sequence with Bob Woolmer both lost their places in the World XI and dropped down to the Cavalier team which was made up of the reserves from the three main sides. Rest of the World, Australia and the West Indies.

Apart from their share of the bonus money, Ames and Woolmer lost nothing, but, if the same events had occurred in

England, they would have been dropped from the National XI which, in addition to the disappointment, would also mean a considerable loss of income.

The Australian Test and state cricketers are usually able to combine their cricket activities for which they are increasingly well rewarded, with a regular job outside the game.

The majority of companies are prepared to release members of their staff to represent their state or country.

I was talking to a senior executive of the Commonwealth Bank who had turned down a request by Ian Davis, one of Packer's less accomplished Australians, for more unpaid leave to take part in the unofficial Caribbean tour by WSC.

The outcome of this refusal was that Kerry Packer promptly transferred two of his substantial accounts from the Commonwealth Bank to the Rural Bank and the ANZ Bank. Somewhat ironically, when Davis withdrew from the tour, his replacement was Ian McCosker, who happened to work for the Rural Bank. They promptly granted him unpaid leave to fulfil his Packer commitments.

TENNIS BY JOHN BARRETT

New talks on Grand Prix row

EVEN WHILE Bjorn Borg and Jimmy Connors were yesterday disputing the final of the \$300,000 Pepsi Grand Slam for the third year in succession at the Florida resort Boca West, a country-club complex where golf courses and tennis courts are about among palm-strewn lawns and lakes, discussions were proceeding behind closed doors that will affect the future of the men's game.

Ever since the announcement by the Men's International Professional Tennis Council last December that there would be strict new rules for the 1979 Grand Prix framed to protect the smaller tournaments, particularly in the last quarter of the season, from competition from four-man special events, there have been noises of protest from six leading men.

Connors, Borg, John McEnroe, the 19-year-old winner of last year's Colgate Masters, and Guillermo Vilas, the Argentine left-hander who won the Australian Open last December, were all competing in Boca West, accompanied by their managers and advisers. Bob Brimer, the executive director of the MPTC, was there, too, and the Nastase and Vitas Gerulaitis were in touch with their

fellow-players, all determined to show a united front in face of some well-intentioned but ill-judged coercion.

Two of the proposed new rules particularly irritate the group. The first is that all players must agree to be designated to compete in six tournaments selected by the council. The prospect of being made to play in, Calcutta, Manila or Sydney is anathema to Connors, who fairly claims that he alone knows what playing programme is best for him.

The second condition that alarms them is that unless they are prepared to sign a form agreeing to all the new rules they will not be permitted to compete in any Grand Prix tournaments. Clearly, in the case of the major championships, this will be hard to enforce. Wimbledon and the U.S. Open are unlikely to refuse the entry of a Borg or a Connors whatever the rules, which might mean that both championships would be excluded from the Grand Prix.

At Boca West on Saturday, Donald Dell, who manages many of the leading players including Ashe, Dibbs, Tanner, Solomon and Orantes, who have all signed, was adamant that the rules are vitally necessary.

He even maintained that if Wimbledon or the U.S. Open failed to co-operate and were therefore debarred from the Grand Prix, there might be competing events staged against them within the competition.

Dell maintained that it was reasonable to ask players to nominate in priority 10 tournaments in the \$175,000 category, and 10 in the lower categories, from which the council would attempt to distribute players fairly across the season by selecting three from each player's two groups.

Although the council hoped to introduce the new rules on January 1, such was the furore among the players mentioned that the date for signing was put back to March 1.

A further rule seeks to limit to three the number of four-man special events in which a player can take part during the weeks of a \$175,000 tournament. Since there are 82 such tournaments in the calendar, it would seem that a reasonable number of the world's top 10 would always be available at each—for it is these draw-cards upon which the promoter depends to sell tickets.

It is all very well to suggest that a player owes an obligation to the game from which

he makes a lucrative living. But Connors maintains that he cannot summon the nervous and physical energy to compete for more than 12 to 15 weeks if he is to sustain his level of performance.

While sympathising with the MPTC's motives in trying to bolster the Grand Prix, the truth is that the competition is sagging under its own weight. My own solution would be to divide the Grand Prix into two sections: a super series containing the top 15 tournaments, with a bonus pool for the top 15 players, and a second group containing all the other tournaments with its own bonus pool for another 35 players. No one would be able to take bonus prizes from both pools and the super series contenders would also have to play in at least two second series tournaments. This would allow players freedom of choice, would bolster the smaller tournaments, and would not over-tax the leading performers.

Doubtless some sort of compromise will emerge from Boca West and my guess is that he shall see the council softening its attitudes to the proposed penalties—which include ultimate suspension from the game.

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Iran: time for discretion

THE Ayatollah Khomeini, Iran's messianic religious revolutionary, appears to have smashed through the last defences of the old order. After 14 years in exile and less than a week in Iran he has driven the Shah into exile, brought the economy of the world's second biggest oil exporter to its knees, provoked unprecedented civil strife and swept away the assumptions upon which a great imperial dream was to have been built.

Last night, after a bloody weekend which brought the country to the verge of full-scale civil war, the army withdrew to barracks and Mr. Shapur Bakhtiari, the Shah's last Prime Minister tragically conceded defeat, and warning signs that the Islamic revolution was veering dangerously out of control. The major question now is whether the Ayatollah can control the forces he has unleashed and, if so, what happens next?

Major interest

It is far too early to make any judgment about the coming weeks if only because the nature of the Islamic Government which the Ayatollah wishes to set up is itself far from clear. This makes it virtually impossible to forecast accurately what opposition it might meet. But the situation is fraught with dangers both for the people of Iran and for the West which still has a major interest in seeing stability return to a strategically important country whose influence in an increasing volatile area vulnerable to radical intervention could still be great.

Perhaps the most striking aspect of the present turmoil is the speed with which the flames of the Islamic revolution engulfed the 50-year-old Pahlavi dynasty. This is also the most worrying aspect of the situation. All the Shah's efforts—his hand-picked army, the secret police, the handouts, the massive support from the West—clearly failed to amount to much more than a house of straw. In the end it took little more than a few well-chosen words by the Ayatollah to blow it down leaving, it seems, a political vacuum of quite frightening proportions in its place.

A threat to the rule-book

THE Stock Exchange is dismayed at having been sent to the Restrictive Practices Court without consultation with ministers. Yet it would have been surprising if, at this late stage, the Government had decided to rescue the Exchange from the processes of the Restrictive Trade Practices Act. Because of a rule book instructing its membership how, and at what price, to trade in securities the Exchange has been bound inexorably for this court since the Act was amended to include the service sector in 1978. The time for a determined plea for exemption by the Stock Exchange, supported by the Bank of England, was while the amended legislation was being drafted.

Self-regulation

During 1974 exemption was negotiated for a degree of collusion between building societies and between insurance companies, and for monetary agreements to which the Bank of England is party. The Stock Exchange's appeal has come very late in the day. It has coincided with another of those moments when the Labour Government is having to demonstrate its distance from the business establishment in order to coax greater cooperation out of organised labour. Yet there has since 1976 been an obvious inconsistency in the way the Government has allowed the Exchange to slide into the arms of this court. It was in that year that the Government declared itself at least temporarily committed to the principle of self-regulation of the securities markets.

The Government set up the Wilson Committee to look more deeply into this question (among many other things). It was partly to respond to the Government's leaning towards self-regulation—and to give the Wilson Committee more in report on—that the City establishment set up the Council for the Securities Industry. It is perfectly clear that self-regulation of a market must involve self-imposed "restrictive practices" of some sort, whether or not of the type which the Stock Exchange has developed over the last century. The point is that the Stock Exchange is now in the grasp of a Court which is obliged to regard a free-for-all as the norm and can only allow restrictive practices to continue if they can be squeezed through certain pre-ordained "gateways."

There is no reason why the

A central element in the situation and one which may well hinder the rapid transition to stability is that the forces at play are diverse and may not, at this stage, be showing their true colours. Essentially there are the army—most of it at the higher levels—allied to the civilian pro-Shah elements on the one hand and the great coalition of forces for whom the Ayatollah is a symbol of change on the other.

The Ayatollah's first task, assuming that the mobs which were last night rampaging through the streets of Tehran could be controlled, is to forge a consensus out of most of these groups on where Iran should go next. One of the few encouraging developments since the Ayatollah's return has been that his actions—such as the delay in appointing a full provisional government—have tended to be less inflammatory than his pronouncements. This suggests an underlying willingness to compromise, although he might have been more forthcoming in preventing the uncontrolled anger of his supporters.

At the same time the army, with the exception of the Shah's Imperial Guard which seems to have been at the heart of the action against the Ayatollah's supporters, has shown signs of flexibility. The best assessment available suggests that some key officers at the top will back an Islamic government as long as it safeguards the integrity of the army and excludes the pro-Moscow Communist Party.

Wiseest course

Having restored calm the Ayatollah will presumably attempt to form a government based upon a broad coalition of forces and backed by the army. This will take time. It may also backfire several times causing more bloodshed given that the stakes are so high and that feelings on all sides are still running strong.

In this volatile situation the wisest course for outside powers would be to watch closely not to intervene directly. This goes for Moscow as well as Washington. If there is any such thing as a high level Soviet-American dialogue it should now come into play.

IF EVENTS in Iran have demonstrated anything it is that if there is a world energy crisis, it is political rather than economic. Most predictions of world shortages of key raw material or energy sources have come unstuck, starting with Jevons' 19th-century forebodings about the impending disappearance of coal which succeeded in worrying even as convinced a free trader as William Gladstone.

Conservation measures

Clearly the disappearance of Iranian oil makes a hole in the total. On the other hand production in other countries has some elasticity. Productive capacity is a term of art, including a judgment on the state of facilities and of government imposed ceilings. Official OPEC productive capacity without Iran is 28m barrels, giving a gap of 3.5m or over 6 per cent of world consumption. Mr. Garry Gray, the senior economist of Bankers Trust, New York, reckons a flexible application of production limits by Saudi Arabia, Abu Dhabi, Kuwait and Venezuela could close the gap.

This is not something on which to bet a great deal of money; but one's worries relate to political halfheartedness rather than physical impossibilities. Should supplies drop by 7 per cent, the International Energy Agency oil-sharing mechanism would come into operation, together with concerted conservation measures. The main problems at the moment are those of physical resourcing and reallocation and fears of a precautionary buying spree which will certainly not be prevented by anti-hoarding sermons. The countries most dependent on Iranian oil appear to be Japan and Germany, which received 19 per cent of their imports from this source in the first half of 1978. But in practice it is the customers of BP irrespective of their geographical location who may stand to lose most in the short run.

This concentration of the

shortage on one or two companies may have given rise to distorted comparisons, with 1973-1974. Also clearly the U.S. Energy Secretary, Dr. Schlesinger, has an interest in emphasising any dangers which could accelerate U.S. energy saving measures. A different view has been taken by Dr. Ulf Lantzknecht, Executive Director of the Energy Agency, who has said that oil stocks in the 19-member countries amount to 120 days' net imports, compared with the official minimum of 70 days.

There is a normal seasonal rundown of about 2m barrels a day from the beginning of this year to the end of March, which could reach 3m because of Iranian events. The gap is of a size which quite modest conservation measures could close.

Looking further ahead, the Iranians will have to resume some oil exporting if their economy is to avoid complete disintegration. On the other hand there could be shocks and surprises in other parts of the world.

The big difference with the events of 1973-4 is on the price side. Dollar oil prices rose in the aftermath of the Yom Kippur War to over four times their previous level. The rise more than compensated for a long period in which the real price of oil (relative to manufactured goods) had been falling, and the OPEC countries moved almost overnight from being a small corner of the world economy to a major force, and acquired a current payments surplus on a scale exceeding that of Germany and Japan. Having raised the crude price from less than \$3 per barrel in 1973 to nearly \$12 in 1974, another rise on that scale is unthinkable without at least a major catastrophe in Saudi Arabia.

But even a proportionately more modest increase would bring problems enough. It has been pointed out that the bidding up of prices at crude oil auctions in 1973 helped to trigger off the oil cartel's action on petrol prices. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) calculated in 1978 that every 10 per cent rise in the price of oil now adds nearly 1 per cent to the inflation rate of member states and \$12 to \$14bn to their combined import bills.

At the same time OECD forecasters reckoned on a 5 per cent increase in the oil price and a rough constancy in inflation rates among the average of the main industrial countries. The 14.5 per cent phased increase actually agreed in Abu Dhabi

last December for 1979 amounted to an average increase of 10 per cent through the year and would then have added 1 per cent to average inflation rates. About the most optimistic outcome that one can hope for is that most of the planned increase will take place early in the year, with that being that. This would then add about 1 per cent to world inflation. If oil prices were to rise by 50 per cent, the impact effect on OECD inflation rates would be nearly 2½ per cent.

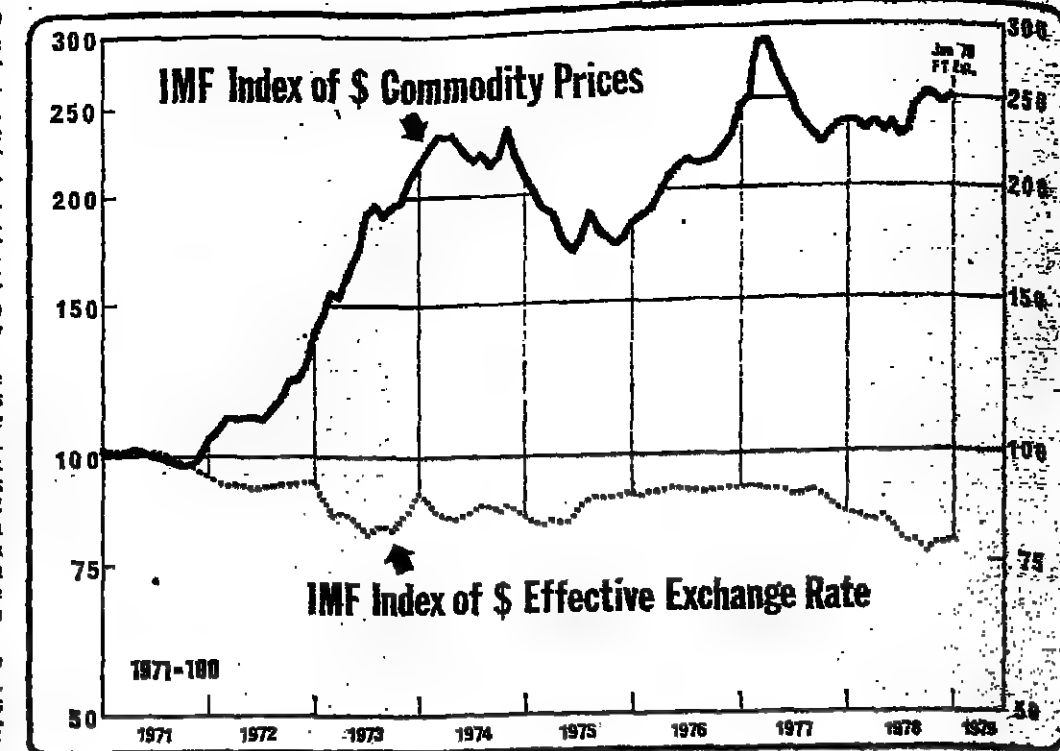
After the 1973-74 oil price explosion the OPEC countries spent their surpluses far more quickly than the sensational forecasts then in vogue assumed (indeed that was part of Iran's trouble). The combined OPEC surplus fell from nearly \$80bn in 1974 to an estimated \$11bn last year and a predicted \$11bn in 1978. This is now likely to be a good deal larger (despite Iran's shift to heavy deficit).

Exports to Iran amount to about 2 per cent of the total exports of industrial countries and amount to hardly 1 per cent of their combined national product. So even on the crude view that the resources involved cannot be switched elsewhere, the risks of the export cancellation triggering off a world slump are small. And of course some of the orders might end up being supplied to other OPEC countries whose revenues will benefit.

The simpler alarmists

Experience has also shown that a larger OPEC surplus does not make the hole in world demand that the simpler alarmists suppose. The revenues are either spent or recycled via the banks and capital markets to the countries whose own deficit increases as a mirror image. The recycling process, can, of course affect exchange rates; and the instinctive reaction of the foreign exchange market so far has been to mark the dollar down and fortify sterling, thus giving the British Prime Minister and Chancellor another few weeks—or is it days?—to finalise their budgetary strategy.

A more acute anxiety arises from the uncertainties surrounding Iran's debt on the international banking system. These debts are estimated to be in the \$8bn to \$12bn range. They are in large part covered by Iranian reserves, mostly held as foreign currency deposits, even if these are not as high as



the \$11bn officially claimed. The UK is in fact a net debtor having borrowed from Iran for balance of payments purposes. It is, after all, not all that long ago that Lord Barber and Mr. Peter Walker went to St. Moritz to woo the Shah for loans and orders.

Although Iran accounted for about 1 per cent of total Euro-dollar issues and medium-term Eurocredit in the last couple of years, there is still a fear that individual banks and institutions may be excessively exposed; and that this could with bad luck have a snowball effect on other institutions. People with fears on this score will be quick to add that there are other countries in almost as vulnerable a position as Iran, and whose credit rating could easily plunge. Will Iran then in 1979 be if not the Creditanstalt of 1931, at least the Herstatt?

Probably not. The world's central bankers agreed firmly, but informally, some time ago to act as lenders of last resort to the Eurodollar market. The exact implications have deliberately not been spelt out. But the aim is to protect the depositors of banks which get into trouble without guaranteeing against loss the banks themselves. The model is said to be that of the "lifeline" rescue of the secondary banks by the Bank of England.

One important banker who persisted in probing into these matters too closely was told: "Don't worry, we will be discussing these problems with your successor." Perhaps, however, a little less secrecy would help to quieten the anxieties of those who are always on the look-out for "another 1931" and by their fears make a crash slightly more likely.

The real reason why the world economy today is not comparable to 1974 is that five years ago an inflationary boom

had just burst, in which output and prices were rising simultaneously at rapid, although differing, rates throughout the industrialised world. This itself helped to trigger off the oil price explosion, as well as a major rise in commodity prices. There is simply no comparison between the increase of about 140 per cent in the IMF commodity index between the trough of October 1971 and its peak of March 1974, and its most recent sustained rise of 50 per cent between mid-1975 and mid-1977. In between these two periods the index had actually fallen by over a quarter.

Currency hedging

It is true that it has been tending to rise again in the last few months, although the extent of the rise has been aggravated by the fall in the dollar as far as many of the indices are concerned. Metals have been rising in the last few weeks more quickly than commodities in general; and there is clearly an element of currency hedging here, reflected most spectacularly in the rise in the gold price.

In contrast to the period up to 1974, governments and central banks have been much more cautious about responding to unemployment and stagnation by monetary and fiscal boosts. The money supply in the main industrial countries has risen less than in the early 1970s; and if budget deficits are higher, this mainly reflects a rise in the savings ratio, both domestically and in the newly-rich OPEC countries.

As the chart shows, the inflation rate in the main industrial countries is about as high as it was in 1973, but at least the rate of inflation has itself

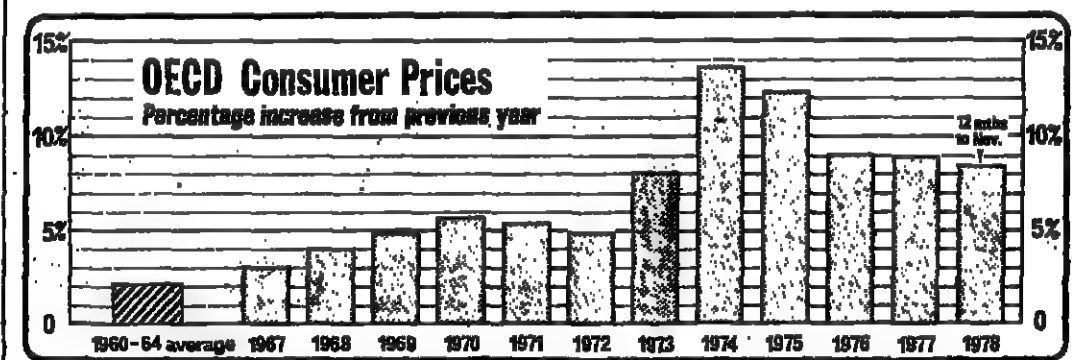
remained fairly steady for over three years, compared with the trend rise from one cycle to another in the late 1960s and the early 1970s.

But this stability, itself only a relative stability, brings its own problems. With inflation rates averaging only a little under 10 per cent, it would not be easy for central banks to adopt a purely passive attitude to an extra 2 or 3 per cent in the price index coming from OPEC and other supply pressures. It would indeed be unwise to follow a policy as severe as to reduce other prices so that the rate of overall price increases did not rise at all compared with 1977 or 1978. But even to finance a one-to-all increase in the price level, as occurred after the OPEC rise of 1973-74, could imply a squeeze on real demand and activity.

This would be so if oil price and commodity increases led to a threatened long-term upward shift in inflationary expectations which the authorities would have to try to fight off. Stagnation would also be threatened if unions or wage-setters resisted the necessary check to living standards were to show itself in wage push. In that case the rate of unemployment required simply to prevent inflation from running away altogether would rise some more on a world scale.

As the figures and charts indicate, the aim of the new twist that could be given to the stagflation problem is neither more than that which occurred in 1974, but we already start from a higher level of recorded unemployment; and the relative stability of the inflation rate has been achieved at a historically high level.

Thus the world is in a slightly more stable position to face a moderate shock, but it is stability at a lower level of performance.



MEN AND MATTERS

Scoring a try off the field

Cynics suggest there is a trace of political convenience in the appointment of the former Springbok captain, Dawie de Villiers, as South African ambassador to London. His rivals for the part were all Cabinet ministers, which would have forced a Cabinet reshuffle on the Prime Minister P. W. Botha. Mr. Botha is not enthusiastic about making any changes just now, since this would almost certainly mean elevating the arch-conservative Dr. Andries Treurnicht to full Cabinet rank. Mr. de Villiers' appointment—at 38 he is the youngest-ever South African ambassador to Britain—could, however, prove a shrewd diplomatic move in its own right. An ordained dominie of the Dutch Reformed Church, also a university lecturer in philosophy, as well as one of the leading young Turks in the aging ranks of the ruling National Party, Mr. de Villiers displayed his talents as a diplomat on the 1969/70 Springbok tour, which faced full-scale anti-apartheid demonstrations at every stop.

At home he is regarded as one of the most "liberal" National Party MPs, and even has the distinction of being howled down for being too radical. His own feelings for Britain are certainly fond. He first visited London on a student scholarship in 1963, playing his last game of rugby as scrum half for the Presidents' XV at Twickenham for the 1971 Rugby Football Union Centenary. He currently lives in Twickenham Road, Johannesburg.

An after-taste

It is a sentimental article of faith that no one in Fleet Street is pleased by the Times Newspaper debacle; all the same. The Observer must have breathed a huge, if silent, sigh of relief at increasing its circulation by something like 50 per cent, to past the million mark.



"But I was looking forward to a bit of relaxation."

Yesterday this unforeseen triumph was crowned with a certain irony when the paper printed a hefty advertisement for the latest offer of The Sunday Times Wine Club. This was for a pair of Bulgarians, a red described as "fruity, aromatic and long-favoured in your mouth as a full, dry and wonderfully grapey" white. The somewhat ambiguous headline: "It will make the French gulp."

The club, too, must have swallowed some less-than-appetising pride before placing the advertisement with its deadly rival. Needs must, I suppose, if one has taken on board vast quantities of Bulgarian nectar.

Noticing nature

The National Coal Board thinks there may be coal in East-Fife. Quite coincidentally, it has struck East Fife Flats that they are living in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, or AONB. AONBs abound now, particularly in areas where the NCB suspects there may be coal.

Most outstanding at the moment is the Vale of Belvoir AONB, where the board wants to build a large mining complex. Vale of Belvoir residents, many of whom are commuters and so able to look at the Vale through fresh eyes, regard it as an AONB little short of a wonder of the world.

East Fife's are by and large not commuters, having fished or farmed on their flat and rather plain AONB for several centuries. But they have been accustomed to mines being somewhere else, namely in West and Central Fife, and to regarding miners as unstable people who vote Labour. Thus when the Fife Planning Committee was given the shock news last Friday that the NCB intended to sink several bore holes in East Fife, several councillors realised that their duty was to preserve the face of Scotland.

An exception was a councillor from Dunfermline, where the face of Scotland is distinctly ravaged already. He considered it hardly reasonable to hold up the development of the region on such flimsy grounds.

War looms if the NCB strikes the lucky. One of the sites chosen is not only an AONB, it is the site of the Fife Hunt's point-to-point.

Dialling tone

Despite the well-known glamour of its existence, every foreign correspondent has moments of frustration, often occasioned by telephone. In Moscow these moments are compounded by the fact that the Moscow telephone directory was last printed eight years ago, is virtually unobtainable, and does not list foreigners' telephone numbers. My colleague David Satter tells me all that has now changed, thanks to Victor Louis, a Soviet citizen accredited as correspondent of the London Evening News, and his wife Jennifer. They have compiled a list of telephone numbers for all embassy staff, businessmen, and correspondents, called Information Moscow. It also lists Soviet ministries, foreign trade organisations, and news-

papers, and has been pounced on by large numbers of people, Russians as well as foreigners. Satter finds it useful too. Those who want to get in touch with him may find it less so: the number listed for the Financial Times is wrong.

Bird bonanza

As the crowd filling the Royal Festival Hall on Saturday night well showed, one of Britain's healthiest growth areas is bird-watching. Members of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds were flocking together for a festival of film—the longest of which had been financially underwritten by Gulf Oil.

The star guest was Lord Home—far keener these days on wild life than on politics. He comes, of course, from an ornithological family: his brother Henry keeps birds in his drawing room. The Gulf-sponsored film lasted an hour and is seen by the corporation as a goodwill gesture to Scotland. It describes the return of ospreys to the Highlands, and a large part of it shows the giant predators hurtling into lochs, rivers and trout hatcheries to snatch their food. Roger West, the corporation's general manager for the North Sea, remarked thoughtfully to me afterwards: "I expect we shall now be getting approaches from the fish lobby for sponsorship."

Two wise men

It is not only we poor mortals who are confounded by the complexities of the EEC. The Green Pound is, I am told, not the favorite topic of conversation among the Olympians of the Berlaymont either. Word from Brussels has it that of the three remaining officials who understand the agronomy mechanisms, one has gone mad and the other two are not allowed to travel in the same plane.

Observer

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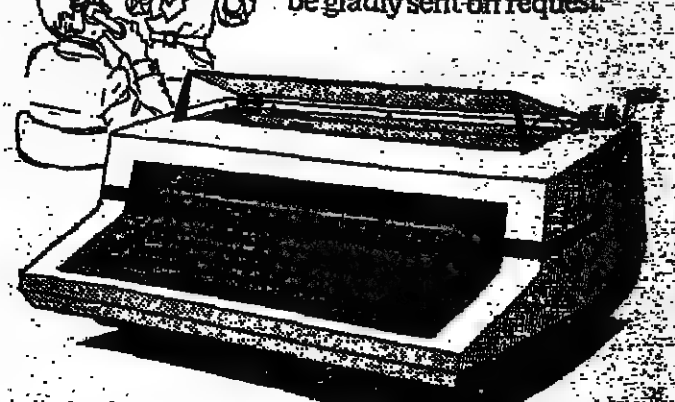
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FINANCIAL TIMES

Eurobond Quotations and Yields

AIBD

THE ASSOCIATION OF
INTERNATIONAL BOND DEALERS

At 31st JANUARY, 1979

The Association of International Bond Dealers (AIBD) compiles current market quotations and yields for Eurobond issues. These quotations and yields are published monthly by the Financial Times. The Association's prices and yields are compiled from quotations obtained from market-makers on the last working day of each month. There is no single stock exchange for Eurobonds in the usually recognised sense—secondary market trading business is done on the telephone between dealers scattered across the world's major financial centres. Membership of the AIBD (which was established in 1969) comprises over 450 institutions from about 27 countries.

Eurobonds in January

BY JOHN EVANS

The international bond markets opened the new year on a subdued note. But this gave some sections of the market a useful breathing space to allow consolidation, paving the way for a new issue calendar in dollar bonds that approached some \$1bn of issues by early February.

However, the best-performing sector in January was the French Franc Eurobond market,

which had reopened in late 1978. January also had some significant relaxations in Japan and Switzerland of capital regulations originally designed to restrict investment in the two countries' capital and bond markets.

The Eurodollar bond sector opened January with some sharp price falls, which created yields of 10 per cent or more on many seasoned issues. The

continued uptrend in dollar interest rates and international reservations over the Carter administration's economic policies, particularly on inflation, helped create pressure on fixed-interest securities.

The new issue side of the dollar market virtually remained closed, before West German chemical group Bayer brought a \$200m Eurobond with an equity linkage via Deutsche Bank mid-month.

This warrants-attached offering attracted widespread comment. The warrants on the 10-year deal, with a coupon of 7½ per cent and pricing of par, can be used to purchase Bayer shares over the next 10 years.

Each \$1,000 bond will carry detachable warrants, which can be used to buy 13 Bayer shares at DM 136 each. Based on the mid-January price of Bayer shares—DM 137.10—13 shares would have a market value of about DM 1,782.

The Bayer flotation did not meet with universal acclaim, and some analysts pointed to the company's relatively sluggish earnings record as possibly detracting from its attractiveness. Nevertheless, the bond performed well in after-market trading.

Later in the month, the dollar

market in general looked in better shape. Continued stability of the dollar and an accelerating retreat by short-term U.S. interest rates from their highs of early January re-created investor interest.

Taking advantage of this market recovery—albeit a possibly brief one based on a transient relaxation in tight American money conditions—new issues started to appear in number. Canada led the surge, with issues for Hudson's Bay Co and New Brunswick Electric Power.

The Deutsche-Mark market had a poor month, after being unsettled by the Bundesbank decision to raise its Lombard rate as part of measures to mop up liquidity caused by past foreign exchange inflows.

One bellwether issue was for

Norway's Statoil, which offered DM 150m over 10 years and coupon of 6½ per cent. These terms suggest that the return for investors on foreign Deutsche Mark bonds are being brought into line with what they can obtain on German domestic bonds.

A maximum of DM 950m worth of foreign DM bonds is to be floated on the German market during February, roughly the same as the actual volume of issues raised in January.

In French francs, the FFr 150m issue for Peugeot-Citroen was increased to FFr 175m and priced at 100½ to yield 9.86 per cent.

This is the first time since last September that a French franc bond has been increased in size. Outstanding franc bonds displayed strength over the

month, and one factor at work is the greater confidence felt in the franc, partly based on its planned membership of the European Monetary System.

In Switzerland, it was decided to lift the ban that had prevented foreigners from buying Swiss securities since early 1978. Simultaneously, a rule was waived which had limited to 50 per cent the proportion of Swiss franc foreign bond issues for which foreign investors could subscribe.

Meanwhile, in Japan, another capital control barrier was dismantled in January. Non-residents will now be allowed to purchase Japanese bonds with maturities remaining of one year and one month or more, a relaxation of the five year and one month cutoff line in force for the past 10 months.

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The table of quotations and yields gives the latest rates available on 31st January, 1979. This information is from reports from official and other sources which the Association of International Bond Dealers considers to be reliable, but adequate means of checking its accuracy are not available and the Association does not guarantee that the information it contains is accurate or complete.

All rates quoted are for indication purposes only and are not based on, nor are they intended to be used as a basis for, particular transactions. In quoting the rates the Association does not undertake that its members will trade in all the listed Eurobonds and the Association, its members and the Financial Times Limited do not accept any responsibility for errors in the table.

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NO.	NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	DATE	TIME	AMOUNT	CURRENCY	NO.	NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	DATE	TIME	AMOUNT	CURRENCY	NO.	NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	DATE	TIME	AMOUNT	CURRENCY	NO.	NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	DATE	TIME	AMOUNT	CURRENCY
1001	ALBERTA INVESTMENT BANK	1001 ALBERTA	ALBERTA	ALBERTA	ALBERTA	1001	1001	1001	1001	1002	ALBERTA INVESTMENT BANK	1002 ALBERTA	ALBERTA	ALBERTA	ALBERTA	1002	1002	1002	1002	1002	1003	ALBERTA INVESTMENT BANK	1003 ALBERTA	ALBERTA	ALBERTA	ALBERTA	1003	1003	1003	1003	1003	1003	1003	1003	1003	1003	1003	1003	1003

WestLB QUOTATIONS AND YIELDS

"Life" and "Maturity" appear in years and decimals of years and are to be interpreted as follows:

- final maturity in case of a lump-sum repayment
- final maturity in case of a sinking fund issue, whenever the quoted price is below 100
- average life in case of a sinking fund issue, whenever the quoted price is above 100
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specific transaction. The rates quoted apply to the six-
month periods shown.

Nacional Financiera	1985/93	5 Jan 79	5 July 79	13 1/2%
Privredna Banka	1985	8 Jan 79	9 July 79	13 1/2%
BFG Finance Co.	1989/94	10 Jan 79	10 July 79	12 1/2%
CCF (Min. 6 1/2%)	1983	10 Jan 79	10 July 79	12 1/2%
OKS	1983	10 Jan 79	10 July 79	12 1/2%
Adela Investment	1983	11 Jan 79	11 July 79	13 1/2%
CCF (Min. 7%)	1983	11 Jan 79	11 July 79	12 1/2%
Credit National	1988	11 Jan 79	11 July 79	12 1/2%
B.I.A.O.	1983	12 Jan 79	12 July 79	12 1/2%
Indosuez	1981	15 Jan 79	15 July 79	12 1/2%
Ljubljanska Banka	1983	19 Jan 79	19 July 79	12 1/2%
Offshore Mining	1986	19 Jan 79	19 July 79	12 1/2%
B.N.P. (5 1/2% min.)	1983	21 Jan 79	21 July 79	12 1/2%
Bco Nacion Argentina	1983	22 Jan 79	22 July 79	12 1/2%
Kansallis-Osake-Pankki	1983	22 Jan 79	22 July 79	12 1/2%
Midland Int'l Fin	1983	22 Jan 79	22 July 79	12 1/2%
Petroleos Mexicanos	1984	24 Jan 79	24 July 79	12 1/2%
Indosuez	1985	25 Jan 79	25 July 79	12 1/2%
LTCB	1982	27 Jan 79	27 July 79	11 1/2%
African Dev. Bank	1983	29 Jan 79	30 July 79	11 1/2%
Chase Manhattan	1983	29 Jan 79	30 July 79	11 1/2%
GZB	1981	31 Jan 79	31 July 79	11 1/2%
Insilio Corp.	1980	31 Jan 79	31 July 79	12 1/2%

Interest rates applicable to the issues listed below will be
announced during February.

C.I.C.	1981
Arab Int'l Bank	1983
Jugobanka	1983
S.N.C.F.	1985/87
Haposlim	1983
C.C.C.E.	1988
Credit Lyonnais	1982
Bq. Ext. d'Algerie	1984
Standard Chartered	1990
Credit Lyonnais	1983
Bco do Brasil	1982
ESCOM	1983
I.B.J. (Min. 8%)	1983
L.T.C.B.	1983
B.U.E.	1981
B.N.P.	1982/84
Midland Int'l	1983
B.F.C.E.	1984
Alshli Bank	1983
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KUBOTA	\$25
MAKITA	\$30
MURATA	\$4.75
NIPPON MEAT PACKERS	\$3.10
PIONEER	\$19 1/2
RENEWON	\$3.21
SONY	\$8.00
TAISHO MARINE	\$12 1/2
TDK	\$8 1/2
TOKYO SANYO	\$1.81
TRIO	\$29
WACOAL	\$23 1/2

**AIBD QUOTATIONS AND YIELDS
PUBLICATION DATES IN 1979**

	February	12th	July	9th
March	12th		August	13th
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May	14th		October	15th
June	12th		November	12th

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maturity up to 5 years				
8 % Österreich 1973/B/81	101,25	7,74	7,90	15. 277-81 at 101,0
8 1/2% Österreich 1974/II/B/82	102,-	7,44	8,33	22.10.75-82 at 100,0
8 1/2% Österreich 1975/S/83	102,25	7,85	8,31	5. 3.76-83 at 100,0 to 101,0
8 1/2% Innsbruck 1974/B/82	102,-	7,68	8,33	19.11.75-82 at 100,5
8 1/2% Steyr-Daimler-Puch 1974/B/81	101,50	7,77	8,37	29.10.75-81 at 100,5

maturity over 5 years

8 1/2% Österreich 1976/S/86	104,25	7,88	8,15	20. 2.81-86 at 101,5 to 104,0
8 % Österreich 1976/S/III/B/86	101,25	7,73	7,90	22.11.83-86 at 100,0
8 % Österreich 1977/S/B/87	101,-	7,76	7,92	15. 2.82-87 at 100,0
8 % Arlberg Straßentunnel 1977/B/85	101,25	7,59	7,90	29. 7.80-85 at 100,0
8 % Wien 1973/88	101,50	7,85	7,88	15. 5.74-88 at 101,0 to 101,5
7 3/4% CA-BV 1977/II/C/92	100,25	7,69	7,71	15.10.78-92 at 100,0
8 % Export 1978/B/93	101,-	7,72	7,92	11. 4.82-85 at 100,0
8 1/2% Energie 1975/II/B + S/85	104,50	7,87	8,13	29.10.79-85 at 103,5
8 % Energie 1978/B/87	101,25	7,73	7,90	1. 3.83-87 at 100,0
8 % VÖEST 1977/B/86	101,25	7,71	7,90	15.11.82-86 at 100,0

Selected US-\$ Bonds of Austrian issuers

5 3/4% Alpine Montan 65/85	6 % Rep. of Austria 64/84
6 5/8% Austrian Electricity 66/86	6 3/4% Rep. of Austria 67/82
6 3/4% Austrian Electricity 67/82	8 3/4% Rep. of Austria 76/90
9 1/2% Österreichische Kontrollbank 74/79 in Austrian Schilling (traded in US-\$ only)	8 1/4% Tauernautobahn 77/87

Interest is payable without deduction for or on account of Austrian taxes.

For current prices and further information please contact:
For Austrian Schilling Bonds: Robert Jekl, Robert Wasinger
(Telephone: 6622/1701 or 1707, Telex: 74261-63)

For International Bonds: Walter Vogl (Telephone: 6622/2222, Telex: 76948)

Code for Reuter Monitor Securities Program: CA DA, CA DB

**Creditanstalt**

Creditanstalt-Bankverein, Schottengasse 6, A-1010 Vienna.

Zaire's poser for the West

By MICHAEL HOLMAN, recently in Kinshasa

QUEUES AT Kinshasa petrol stations, which open for a few hours only each day, start to form the night before and drivers sleep in their cars. Medicines destined for ill-equipped hospitals are sold at market stalls alongside foreign-aid milk powder which should have reached famine areas. These are the symptoms of the straits Zaire is in as the country faces a year dominated by four main questions: to none of which can a confident answer be provided.

Will the apparent surrender of economic control into the hands of the five-man International Monetary Fund (IMF) team and other expatriate experts halt the economic decline and restore international business confidence? Will the population of 20m and especially the 2m-3m in Kinshasa, the capital, tolerate the austerity measures still necessary after years of inflation and poverty? Can the hitherto ineffective armed forces maintain security in the mineral-rich Shaba province when the 2,400-strong Inter-Africa Force (IAF) departs later this year? Above all, if there is to be a programme of reform and rehabilitation, is President Mobutu Sese Seko the right man to preside over it?

These issues have been at the heart of a western policy drawn up after last May's occupation by 4,000 raiders from the Front National pour la Libération du Congo (FNLC) of the key mining centre of Kolwezi 350 miles south-west of Kinshasa. The rebels who had invaded Shaba province in 1977 were routed by French legionnaires and Belgian paratroopers, with U.S. logistical support. The IAF took their place last June, though this month Brussels said it was sending back 250 paratroopers for reasons that have not been fully explained.

But Zaire's decline preceded the Shaba wars. The causes

include the mid-decade fall of copper prices and the rise of oil costs which should have been offset by increases of world coffee prices. A disastrous policy of "Zairianisation" in 1973-74 was accompanied by heavy and undisciplined external borrowing on commercial terms. All the while the leadership indulged in what has been called "an unparalleled collective display of greed."

A great deal is at stake in the recovery operation. Zaire, a vast tract, almost straddling the waist of Africa, is potentially one of the continent's richest states. Though the economy has a lopsided dependence on copper and cobalt for 85-90 per cent of export earnings, it also has coffee, industrial diamonds, oil, palm oil, rich agricultural land and enormous possibilities for hydro-electric power. For the West, apart from concern over Zaire's indebtedness to western institutions, the country has a strategic importance as the world's largest producer of cobalt, a metal vital to the aerospace industry.

The task ahead is monumental. It involves rescheduling the \$3.5bn external debt (including undischarged loans of over \$1bn), over half of which would otherwise fall due before 1983. Corruption, which has cost the country hundreds of millions of dollars, must be reduced; an annual rate of inflation of 100 per cent checked; a stabilisation programme including rigid controls of government spending and domestic borrowing enforced.

Zaire is a debilitated, demoralised giant—less a cohesive state than a group of regions for the most part subsisting on their own resources. Opposition to the Government is either fragmented, in exile, systematically eliminated, or suppressed by an army regarded more as an occupying power than a protecting force. Underlying it all

there is the fear that the country could return to the anarchy of the 1960s.

Kinshasa itself presents a depressing and potentially disastrous picture. An affluent elite using a currency black market enjoy French wines and



cheeses. The packed slums are a spectacle of abject poverty. It is estimated that real wages in the cities are a fifth of what they were in 1960. The wage of an unskilled worker, some Zaire 40 a month, does not buy one bag of maize flour, the staple diet. One bag feeds two people for a month.

Hospitals and clinics lack medicines and school standards have slumped. Reports from aid workers in the countryside are bleak. Rural malnutrition is described as being the worst in decades. Bad rains in 1977-1978 have caused near famine in some parts of Bas-Zaïre. Outside aid needs supervision from the moment it arrives to the point of distribution because otherwise rice destined for the hungry would be sold across the river in Congo-Brazzaville for convertible CFA francs.

Agriculture faces profound problems, not least the deterioration of a transport system

from about 140,000 kilometres (about 88,000 miles) of usable roads before independence to 20,000 kilometres now. Seed improvement programmes are unsuccessful. Even basic hand tools are expensive or unobtainable. The army adds to rural disruption by living off the land and forcing road users to pay cash or goods to pass the frequent road-blocks.

Coffee should be a major foreign exchange earner, but it is estimated that the 1977 crop, worth \$400m, brought only \$120m into the country. The proceeds from smuggled or undergraded exports stayed in foreign accounts.

The state-owned Gécamines faces a difficult year. The important mining centre of Kolwezi appears to have made a remarkable recovery after the occupation last May by rebels. Officials say that production of copper in 1978 was 391,000 tonnes (after 450,000 tonnes in 1977), of cobalt 13,000 tonnes (10,200 tonnes) and forecast 420,000 tonnes and 13,000 tonnes respectively for 1979. The forecast is treated with considerable caution by many observers, including some of the 100 expatriate workers who have returned to the town which once housed 600 expatriates and their families.

It depends on several imponderables. Gécamines believes it can get a total of 250 expatriates to return and that this will be sufficient—though observers suggest that it will leave skills too thinly spread. Equipment requires replacement and this will depend on the outcome of current negotiations with the World Bank and other participants in a suspended expansion programme.

The mines depend on the southern route through Rhodesia to export a third of the copper, while Rhodesia itself provides maize, coal, and coke. Any disruption of this

route by Rhodesian guerrillas would be disastrous—and there is little hope that the Benguela Railway to the port of Lobito will reopen as long as Mr. Jonas Savimbi's guerrillas operate in southern Angola.

Above all, expatriates and Zaireans express concern about the departure of the Inter-Africa Force. No date has been set, but mid-year may see them leave. By this time it is hoped that units of the Zaire army, currently being trained by the French (two paratroop battalions) and the Belgians (3,000 infantrymen) will be able to maintain security in the province. They will have to do so without the support of the local people, Shaba is hardly better than an occupied province. Its 3m people still under a military rule despite moves towards civilian administration.

Against this unpromising background western policy has to operate. The hopes for economic reform rest on the IMF team at the Banque du Zaïre (the central bank). The team, led by Herr Erwin Blumenthal, operates under a wide mandate given by the Government at the meeting in Brussels last October of the 11 western creditor nations. Herr Blumenthal's powers include the right to control all foreign exchange dealings.

One major move against corruption made by the team has been as important for its symbolic content as its hoped-for practical effect. In December, commercial banks were issued with a list signed by Herr Blumenthal of 50 customers to whom further credit was to be refused, by whom outstanding credit was to be repaid, and who would be repatriated hundreds of millions of dollars in foreign exchange. A further 55 companies were placed under investigation. And in a separate circular, also signed by Herr Blumenthal, two companies in particular were singled out.

They are owned by Mr. Litho Mboti, President Mobutu's "uncle" and regarded as second only to the President.

Under IMF guidance, strict allocations of export receipts ensure that 30 per cent of the total is retained by the central bank for the gradual reduction of arrears. Further evidence of the IMF presence is a series of devaluations totalling 50 per cent over the last two months.

During his six-month stay Herr Blumenthal has become a highly respected figure. Whether his powers will be sufficient to remain to be seen. For one doubtful western diplomat the exercise represents little more, as he put it, than "controlling the pocket money of a billionaire." Nevertheless, most observers now expect agreement on an IMF stabilisation fund, accompanied by drawings of perhaps SDR 125m, to be reached within the next few weeks. It could be followed by another meeting of western creditors who, if they are convinced by Zaire's commitment to reform, will consider two things.

First, both governments and banks may have to accept that such is the size and profile of Zaire's external debt that a joint strategy on rescheduling is needed. In the past the fund and the banks have cooperated informally only. Second, every one will have to face the fact that further aid is needed to revive the economy.

It is especially worrying that more than half the debt outstanding is expected to fall due before 1983, nearly three-quarters of it to private banks. Most economists believe that it would be unrealistic to offer Zaire a formula for repayment similar to that of the last Paris Club meeting in 1977 when payments were stretched over nine years with no grace period.

The alternatives, then, are either year-to-year crisis meet-



President Mobutu: should he go?

ings providing barely enough foreign exchange to keep Zaire ticking over, or long-term support based on confidence in the current reforms.

The future of President Mobutu complicates these problems.

Few countries welcome the prospect of a long association with the man whose reputation as a political survivor is equalled only by the size of his personal fortune. Yet who else, it is often asked, can hold the country together? In the absence of any obvious successor the West reluctantly continues its association with a man who has little popular support in Zaire. One consequence is that the man in the street, as well as opposition leaders, see President Mobutu's survival as the result of western support. Senior western diplomats are uneasy. They argue that western support should be conditional on both economic and military reform, but action on the latter is markedly inadequate, they say, despite agreement in principle on what should be done.

The armed forces must be turned into a credible, regularly paid, decently fed and housed force capable of defending Zaire against a third Shaba invasion. This could be accomplished by halving the ramshackle 60,000 strong army (including 20,000 gendarmes) and ensuring that generals and officers are unable to steal the

payroll—a frequent occurrence which forces the men to live off the land. Equally important, the President's powers to interfere with the reforms must be curtailed.

As it is, said one diplomat, "there is a perverse logic in President Mobutu's approach. He can either have an effective military force or a politically safe one—but not both. So sooner or later promising officers are retired or arrested—because they are too good and a potential threat."

Failure of the West to insist on military reform as a condition of their support is primarily due to a reluctance on the part of the U.S. to bear the likely consequences, diplomats say. That likely consequence is the eventual departure of the President. An efficient army would want to depose him. On the other hand, an end to western support would lead to a deeper economic crisis, straining the patience of the population beyond endurance and almost certainly putting President Mobutu in jeopardy.

Should he accept military reform, he would expect the U.S. to lend the way in training and supplying the army. Should he refuse reform, and the West cease support, the U.S. must be prepared to support his successor should he be pro-West—or live with the incalculable consequences should he be hostile.

Letters to the Editor

Trade in textiles

From the Director General, British Textile Employers' Association.

Sir,—It may surprise your correspondent to know that we wholly agree with the World Development Movement assertion (February 7) that "protectionism is not the answer" to the textile industry's troubles. What is required is a global policy for dealing sensibly with production and marketing to meet basic human need—in short, the "orderly development of world trade in textiles" which is the officially recognised objective of the GATT multi-fibre arrangement (MFA) and the long-term arrangement for cotton textiles which preceded it.

The background to world demand for textiles includes some startling statistics. For example, per capita consumption of textiles ranges from 25 kilos in the U.S. to 0.8 kilos in Burma, with the world average being as low as 6.8 kilos. Poverty is largely responsible for this wide disparity in textile consumption which is far below the true needs of the world's population and the capacity of the world's textile and clothing industries to produce.

Since statistics have been brought into the argument perhaps, could introduce a few relevant ones to the UK cotton and allied sector (which is our main concern):

	1950	1958	1973
Employment	339,000	240,000	70,000
Imports of woven cotton cloth (from low-cost sources)	100m square metres	250m square metres	430m square metres

The year 1958 is significant because that was when the UK became a net importer of woven cotton cloth. The figures need no further comment from me—they speak for themselves.

The EEC import regime—negotiated within the framework of the MFA—is being used quite positively to create a stable trading environment for the Community's textile and clothing industry. If this industry is to prosper it must have the right product mix of basic goods (which, by their nature, lend themselves to mass production) and those where high quality and superior standards of design are paramount. To attempt to parcel out segments of textile production that should be the province of the EEC and of the less-developed countries is unrealistic. In a highly industrialised economy it is necessary to manufacture some products in bulk to enable production of more sophisticated products to be economically feasible. The loss by Lancashire of a fair share of the market for its bulk products has led to the loss of capacity to produce, for example, fine count yarns for which it was at one time world famous.

In negotiating the renewed MFA, the Community negotiators deliberately put back quotas for the long-established major suppliers (who have earned a substantial share of the European market) in order to give greater opportunities to newly emergent countries. The intractable competition that is now going on amongst the less developed countries for the same markets cannot be said to be the responsibility of either the UK or the EEC.

We have striven for an EEC (not a sector working party) for the cotton and allied sector in

the genuine belief that this will help us develop a cohesive and positive strategy for the future. While I enjoyed Professor Lees' wit (February 7), I know that we deserve a fate that is better than death!

R. Lloyd-Jones, British Textile Employers' Association, 5th Floor, Royal Exchange, Manchester.

Danger-men at work

From Mr. D. Goulden, Sir,—Talleyrand said: "War is much too serious a thing to be left to military men." I wonder what he would have to say about industrial relations and trade union officials if he were alive today?

Douglas Goulden, Forge Cottage, Withyham, Haverhill, Sussex.

Tax rebates and strikes

From the Managing Director, Fine Tubes.

Sir,—Before your readers adopt the theoretically admirable principles set out by Mr. G. MacDonald (February 8) a word of warning as to the practical result.

A decision not to pay income tax rebate to a striker is likely to be replaced by funds provided at the taxpayer's expense

through the social security system.

Similarly, the practice of granting a "sub" against future wages at the end of a strike, while in principle to be deplored, has in practice much to be said for it. The advance from the employer is taxable and has to be repaid. It will reduce entitlement to social security—which is tax-free and entails no repayment—by a corresponding amount.

T. M. Barclay, Fine Tubes, Estover Works, Crouchhill, Plymouth.

The spy in the cab

From Councillor G. Woollard.

Sir,—I hope that any British Government will succeed in any proposed move to postpone, or phase, the compulsory introduction of tachographs for all heavy goods vehicles. In spite of the ruling from the European Court of Justice, I would further urge readers to examine carefully the case put forward by the supposedly "militant" elements of the Transport and General Workers' Union, as in this case Mr. Alan Law has a better foundation for complaint than might be recognised by people who have never driven goods vehicles day in and day out.

Lorry drivers, once away from depot or docks, put themselves in a world apart from the rest of us. Freedom rules the day, and the mechanical intrusion of impersonal devices that is at the heart of the current argument. Drivers recognise that over-long hours at the wheel endanger other road users, but they resent the implicit lack of trust

of them as responsible citizens contained in a change from the present log-book method of recording their working hours. The point should be made that this country by and large is not yet capable of introducing Continental standards, even if they should be desired. Our roads, with some exceptions, are both narrow and slow. Our financial circumstances also dictate that postponement of the investment burden of installing unproductive instruments that benefit neither producer nor consumer is the only realistic course ahead.

I am as pro-European as anyone, and the reported attitude of some issue-seeking anti-Market Ministers is disgusting, but surely this is a matter for the coming elected European Parliament to discuss and, hopefully, to determine. The Treaty of Rome must never be incapable of amendment and must be subject to the evolving desires of the citizens of Europe as expressed through their own elected quasi-Federal Congress rather than less democratic forums.

Geoffrey Woollard, Chalk Farm, Bottisham, Cambs.

Who do you miss most?

From Mrs. N. Ings, Sir,—May I reply briefly to the correspondent who seems to have been upset by my letter of February 2?

Mr. A. S. J. Thorne writes (February 6) of the country grinding to a halt without the banks and financial institutions. Has he forgotten the Irish bank strike which went on and on and on without, if the media were to be believed, anyone suffering anything worse than inconvenience?

To Mr. R. Nott (February 7) I would say that I happen not to believe that the untimely demise of bankers, financiers and stockbrokers would end imports of wheat and tobacco, but in any case I don't smoke and I prefer black bread to the damp cotton wool currently being marketed as white bread. Incidentally, Mr. Nott, what a shocking waste of those precious wheat imports!

As for Mr. D. F. Wills (February 7) does he really believe that the denizens of the City of London could even begin to cope with the jobs of public service workers? They spend half their time getting the fitters and causing the market to go up and down like a yo-yo, and the other half looking for opportunities of making a fast buck out of Britain's difficulties—"It's no good for the country but it makes sense to me"—remember?

However, I sincerely thank these three gentlemen for the courteous way in which they have written.

N. Ings (Mrs.), 354, Burton Road, Furness Vale, Via Stockport, Cheshire.

Recliner cycles

From Mr. J. Wilde, Sir,—Some new angles on the bicycle? (Michael Strutt, January 13) was of great interest to me. It must have been over 50 years ago that I conceived the idea of "recliner" cycles mentioned in the article—only to discover that such a version had (I believe) already

been made by a small cycle maker in the Manchester area. Of course, when I mentioned the idea of this kind of cycle and a reclining chair-like seat instead of the instrument of torture which we call a saddle, I was laughed at.

My own particular pre-occupation (following upon but still including the "recliner" idea) has been with the idea of easier cycling via better gearing—including, in particular, longer levers than the standard 64-inch pedal-crank. Also I am convinced that the present rotary method of pedalling is wasteful of energy.

Briefly, I invented (on paper) a cycle (or tricycle or car-cycle) which, in theory, promises much easier cycling and more comfortable cycling. I never made a working model since I am an accountant and not an engineer, and there the matter rested.

In the hands of someone (a small manufacturer of cycles?) skilled in metal work, my invention need not be very enthusiastic to bring it to the prototype stage (the most complicated things about it are two standard free-wheels). It embodies (a) levers long enough to overcome the resistance of almost any hill; (b) "reciprocating" propulsion to eliminate some of the wastage of energy by "rotary" propulsion; (c) an "expanding" gear based on simple free-wheels and (d) comfortable seat, with backrest to enhance "thrust."

I would give any assistance in my power to anyone wishing to take an interest in the possibilities of my idea.

John Wilde, "Anne Dale," Kirkcubbin, Cumberland.

Local authority spending

From the Chairman, Finance and Administration Executive Committee, Hammersmith Borough Council.

Sir,—Colin Jones on local authorities (January 31) indulged in the usual mud-slinging at the spending, growing, and oriented attitude of those of us in local government. In common with most such commentators he made no mention of the vast growth in statutory responsibilities imposed on local authorities by Whitehall, nor the reliance on the local government structure on the part of central government to carry out every pet political project.

Since the Conservative/Liberal Administration, to which I belong, was elected to office last May, by far the largest supplementary estimate I have had to agree to has related to the cost of operating the enormously expensive effects of the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act 1977.

As for Mr. Jones' assertion that we would be better off if Government fixed the total level of local spending, one wonders whether he has found good grounds in recent years for believing this will lead to a more optimal strategy? I would suggest that local councillors, accountable to their own communities, are at least as likely to make sensible decisions, and that the degree of Government intervention—the whole gamut of cost ceilings, yardsticks, etc.—imposed from the DoE et al.—make it a lot harder to provide value for money for our own ratepayers.

Richard Lazarus (Councillor), Town Hall, King Street, W6.

Today's Events

GENERAL

U.K.: Prime Minister speaks at launch of Labour Party pro-Scottish Assembly campaign rally, in Glasgow.

Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions submits pay claim to Engineering Employers' Federation.

BL Cars' senior shop stewards meet in Coventry to consider strike ballot result.

Mr. William Rodgers, Transport Secretary, issues statement on broadcasting traffic information.

Overseas: The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh start tour of Middle East.

EEC Farm Ministers meet again in an attempt to resolve farm price structure disagreement.

European Central Bankers start two-day meeting in Basle.

European Parliament meets in Luxembourg (until February 16).

OFFICIAL STATISTICS

Department of Trade publishes January provisional

figures for retail sales.

PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS

House of Commons: Credit Unions Bill, second reading.

Consideration of Lords Amendments to the Price Commission (Amendment) Bill.

House of Lords: Dartmoor Common Bill, second reading.

Tamar Bridge Bill, third reading.

Public Lending Right Bill, second reading.

Countryside (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill, second reading.

Caravan Sites Bill, second reading.

COMPANY RESULTS

Final dividends: A.C. Cars, Alexander's Holdings, Broadstone Investment Trust, Ladies Pride Outerwear, Harris Lebus, Donald Macpherson, Manchester Ship Canal Company, Interim dividends: Ariel Industries, Interim figures: Caledonian Trust Company, Electronic Machine Company, Porch-Elmer, Westminster and County Properties.

COMPANY MEETINGS

See Financial Diary on Page 24.

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Sime Darby dismisses Guthrie's revaluation

BY ARNOLD KRANSDORFF

Guthrie Corporation's revaluation of its assets—at £250 per share—was yesterday described as "judicious" by Sime Darby Holdings, the Malaysian plantation company and overseas trader which has mounted a 425p per share bid for Guthrie.

In the latest exchange since the formal offer—worth £123m—was made almost a month ago, Mr. James Scott, Sime Darby's chief executive, said Guthrie's "defence" document of February 7 was "extremely unconvincing".

He said that the market viewed 425p as totally unreal, as demonstrated by dealings last Friday (when the shares closed at 425p).

"The price we have offered is high on an earnings basis—by any standard. Without our offer the price would fall sharply," he claimed.

In a letter to Guthrie's shareholders over the weekend, Ian Siew Sin, Sime Darby's chairman, described Guthrie's asset valuation as unrealistic and irrelevant.

This is because it relies on a revaluation of the Malaysian assets totally out of line with prices currently being obtained in open market transactions and because it assumes that non-

plantation businesses of different and erratic earnings performance can be valued on an asset basis, he states.

As to the net dividend, which Guthrie plans to raise by 40 per cent for 1978, he says there must be grave doubts as to that company's capacity to maintain payments at the new level.

He says that with net earnings down from 30.3 to an estimated 24.8p per share for 1978, a distribution of 35m out of an available 57m (dividend cover is 1.17 times) is "imprudent, particularly bearing in mind the cyclical nature of plantation earnings and the need to repay borrowings."

The chairman describes Guthrie's diversification over the past decade as "singularly unsuccessful." He states that there is no assurance that, under the Malaysian Government's nationalisation plan, the proceeds arising from transfers of 30 per cent of the group's most profitable business, plantations, will be invested to the benefit of shareholders.

He also states that Guthrie's assets are "extremely unconvincing" and that the market viewed 425p as totally unreal, as demonstrated by dealings last Friday (when the shares closed at 425p).

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Tribune Inv. tops £1m

A jump in pre-tax profits from £772,932 to £1,003,257 in the year to December 31, 1978, is reported by Tribune Investment Trust. At half-way, profits before tax were £548,403 (£436,391).

After tax of £422,097 (£331,701), earnings per 25p share are shown higher at 2.27p (1.72p). The net final dividend is effectively raised to 1.15p (0.85p) making 1.7p against an adjusted 1.3p. Net asset value is 88.7p (85.7p).

Gross revenue rose from £904,663 to £1,169,149.



Mr. Donald Redford, chairman of the Manchester Ship Canal Company which is today due to announce its preliminary results.

Seafield Gentex in dull market

ALTHOUGH THE group is now emerging from a period of losses there is no sign of any real improvement in the market place for Seafield Gentex. Mr. Richard Lord, the chairman, says in his annual statement he therefore considers it imprudent to make a forecast for the current year.

However the company's financial base has been strengthened so that it will be able to take advantage of any improvement in trading conditions when they arise, by converting temporary borrowings into redeemable preference shares and long-term loans, the chairman observes.

The new preference capital is being taken up by Foir Teoranta and the main long-term loans are held by Industrial Credit Company and Foir Teoranta. Satisfactory arrangements have also been made with Allied Irish Banks and the group's other banks, he adds.

As a result of the restructuring of borrowing, long-term loans at September 30, 1978, were ahead from £1.25m to £2.09m and bank advances and other short-term loans had been cut back from £2.45m to £0.41m. The financial arrangement with Foir is for this organisation's firm of loans to be converted to 1m £1.15 per cent redeemable cumulative preference shares.

Group pre-tax loss for the year

September 30, 1978, was reduced from £489,503 to £45,572, as reported December 31. After excluding sales by Castleguard Textile Company and other companies, turnover was down at £13m (£15.2m), with the export content at £10.8m against £11.6m. At year end net liquidity was up £911,023 (£6,573).

It was a difficult year for most of the company's mills. Both Westport Textiles and Hampton Mills continued to earn profits but there were substantial losses at Seafield Fabrics. Beechawn Knitting Mills improved performance but remained in loss.

Both Beechawn and Seafield Fabrics operate exclusively in the man-made fibres industry where there is severe over-capacity. Mr. Lord says supply and demand are expected to be in balance by 1981 when margins should improve.

More buoyant trading was enjoyed by Trimproof. Its results were much better and a major re-investment programme is being undertaken here, Mr. Lord reports.

Sales by the merchant converting operation of Seafield Gentex (UK) were substantially higher but margins were insufficient. Remedial action is expected to start to show effects during the second half of 1978-79.

Record new business by Lloyd's Life Assurance

A SUCCESSFUL year for the 13 months ending September 30, 1978, is reported by Sir Henry Mance, chairman of Lloyd's Life Assurance. The company broke all its previous performance records, with the highest ever sales of new life business.

Premiums income during the year, including single premiums and annuity considerations, advanced by over 10 per cent from £13.6m to £15m and investment income by over 30 per cent from £2.6m to £3.5m.

Claims and annuity payments were nearly 80 per cent up at £5.5m against £3.1m, while expenses, including commission, were one-third higher at £3.5m against £2.6m. After a transfer of £500,000 to profit and loss, the life and annuity fund stood at £43.6m at the end of the period compared with £33.8m at the beginning.

The transfer to profit and loss reduced the overall deficiency to £1.1m. Sir Henry regarded this as representing very satisfactory progress for the fund. The value of the company's shares at December 31, 1978, stood at 150p against 105p a year earlier.

New business figures over the year (already reported) showed

BOARD MEETINGS

The following companies have notified dates of board meetings to the Stock Exchange. Such meetings are usually held for the purpose of considering dividends. Official indications are not available as to whether dividends are imminent or final, and the sub-divisions shown below are based mainly on last year's timetable.

FUTURE DATES	
Interim—Aerial Industries, Caledonian Trust, Electronic Machine, Parkin-Elmer, Bernard Sunley Investment Trust, Finsbury Investments, H.T. Investments, Ladies Price Group, Morris Lohas, Donald Macpherson, Manchester Ship Canal.	
Annual—Aerial Industries, Caledonian Trust, Electronic Machine, Parkin-Elmer, Bernard Sunley Investment Trust, Finsbury Investments, H.T. Investments, Ladies Price Group, Morris Lohas, Donald Macpherson, Manchester Ship Canal.	
Final—Aerial Industries, Caledonian Trust, Electronic Machine, Parkin-Elmer, Bernard Sunley Investment Trust, Finsbury Investments, H.T. Investments, Ladies Price Group, Morris Lohas, Donald Macpherson, Manchester Ship Canal.	
Dividend—Aerial Industries, Caledonian Trust, Electronic Machine, Parkin-Elmer, Bernard Sunley Investment Trust, Finsbury Investments, H.T. Investments, Ladies Price Group, Morris Lohas, Donald Macpherson, Manchester Ship Canal.	

new regular premium business up by 58 per cent and single premiums up slightly thereby consolidating the 200 per cent rise in the previous 12 months.

Sir Henry reports that during the period under review interest rates rose, property values improved and the equity market

was marginally better. A consistent investment performance had been achieved by the company—advancing by 78.5 per cent the Pension Equity Fund by 141 per cent, and the Equity Unit Trust by 141 per cent.

Sir Henry referred to the setting up of a wholly owned subsidiary, Lloyd's Life Assurance (Life of Man), aiming to provide life assurance and investment contracts for the national working and living abroad and for national of other countries.

He believed that the efficient management of the investment contracts provided by the company would prove to be considerably attractive in what was regarded as an "increasingly" market. But he stressed that the operation would be run in a low key manner at the outset.

Finally, Sir Henry welcomed moves to improve the status of insurance brokers, since Lloyd's Life dealt only with the first professional intermediary. But it was essential that too much legislation and rule making did not act as a deterrent to the small man trying to do his own way and there was some evidence that this was happening.

Alexanders cuts gilts holding

BOTH PUBLISHED and inner resources of Alexanders Discount Company remain at a high level, having been substantially strengthened as a result of large profits earned in 1977, Mr. John Clyn, the chairman, says in his annual report.

In 1978 however, the balance for the year was cut from £2.14m to £200,000 after providing for rebate and tax and making a transfer from contingency reserve.

The group's total portfolio at the end of the year was lower than in 1977, with the most significant change being in the reduction of the holding of British Government securities—cut from £39.75m to £5.65m.

The bulk of the remaining assets were of very short life with more than two-thirds maturing during January and only a small proportion maturing after the end of February, the chairman says.

The balance sheet also shows Treasury Bills at £114.03m (£171.55m), commercial and local authority bills were £236.74m (£202.76m). Secured loans stood at £283.2m (£455.38m) and deposits, other liabilities, deferred tax and contingency reserve amounted to £281.13m (£440.6m).

There is a contingent liability on bills rediscounted, excluding Treasury bills of £179.25m (£156.01m).

At January 5, Miss Gladys Wrigley held 17.1 per cent of the group's capital, London and Manchester Assurance, 14.5 per cent and Commercial Union Assurance, 11.5 per cent.

Meeting, 1 St. Swinburn's Lane, E.C.4, March 5 at noon.

In his annual statement Mr. M. P. Sanderson, chairman of Finlas Holdings, sees "further considerable growth during 1978/79" "given normal economic conditions."

The company recently announced pre-tax profits for the 18 months to September 30, 1978 of £415,000 (1977 twelve months—£294,000) before an extraordinary credit of £108,000 (£23,000).

The balance sheet shows the transformed situation of the company with capital employed more than doubled from £660,000 to £1,570,000. Despite the considerably increased pace of growth in all sectors, reflected in work in progress and development "land" at £2,163,000 (£228,000), net borrowings represent 64.5 per cent of shareholders' funds.

Commenting generally on the period, the chairman says that consolidating the recovery in book printing, the group's original base, the company continued expansion of its internally created housebuilding interests. Success in these two fields encouraged increased capital investment in the former and extension of the latter by an acquisition (Proctor Homes).

The profit base has been further broadened by moving into the field of fine art publishing.

At the coming AGM the directors are proposing to increase the company's borrowing powers, as provided for in the Articles of Association. The effect would be to raise the limit from £1.35m to £2.07m.

WCB expects further satisfactory result

In his annual report, Mr. R. W. Beney, chairman of White Child and Beney, tells shareholders he is confident that the outcome of the current year will again prove to be thoroughly satisfactory.

Present signs are that trading conditions will remain reasonable in most of the group's markets and that the buoyant demand for supermarket and multiple store equipment will continue for at least a further year.

However, the present level of trading throughout the group leaves less margin for volume growth than has been the case in recent years, the chairman says.

For the year ended October 1, 1978, profits before tax rose from £1.52m to £2.15m on sales of £18.32m against £18.23m. A one-for-10 scrip issue is also proposed.

A CCA statement shows profits reduced to £1.62m after adjustments for depreciation, £564,000, cost of sales, £240,000 and gearing, £278,000.

Activity increased in all three main trading companies, particularly in the supply of equipment to supermarkets which rose by 35 per cent, says Mr. Beney.

During the year the group spent over £3m on productive assets which included the purchase and renovation of the 110,000 square foot factory into which WCB Plastics has now moved.

the Isle of Wight-based Vectis Stone Group looks to another good year, Mr. J. A. K. Collins, the chairman, says in his annual report.

The current year has started well and is in line with last year, Mr. Collins tells shareholders.

The fuel distribution division continues to operate satisfactorily although the directors would not expect profits from this division to be substantially greater than last year.

In the year ended September 30, 1978, the group turned in record results with pre-tax profits up from £495,308 to £593,417. A one-for-one scrip issue is also proposed.

Profits on a current cost basis are reduced to £375,000 after adjustments for depreciation of £158,553, cost of sales, £232,276 and a £17,307 loss from holding new monetary assets.

At January 23, the interests of the Henton family in the group's share capital consisted of 14m shares—27 per cent.

Meeting, Newport, Isle of Wight, March 1 at 12.15 p.m.

FT Share Information Service

The following securities have been added to the Share Information Service appearing in the Financial Times—

Harris Queensway (Sector: Drapery and Stores);

Imberiana Minerals (Sector: Overseas—Australia);

Thomas Nationwide Transport (Sector: Overseas—Australia);

Volker Stevin (Sector: Overseas—Amsterdam);

NEIL & SPENCER

Acceptances have been received in respect of 789,855 Neil and Spencer shares, representing 85 per cent of its rights issue. The balance has been sold at a price of 123p per share. Net proceeds amounting to £17.3p per share will be distributed to those shareholders to whom the shares were provisionally allotted.

British American Trust

STATED earnings per share of British American and General Trust rose from 1.71p to 1.95p for the year to December 31, 1978.

Total gross revenue went ahead from £1.61m to £2.15m. Management expenses, £1.31m (£1.27m), and £507,012 (£538,500).

The final dividend of 1.15p net lifts the total from 1.80p to 1.35p. Net asset value per share is up from 52.1p to 54.1p.

WOODSIDE PETROLEUM LTD.	
151 Flinders St., Melbourne 3000 Australia	
Notice is hereby given that the register of members will close at 5.00 p.m. on 16 February 1979, to determine entitlements to an issue of 80,000,000 ordinary 50 cent shares at par.	
By order of the Board:	
L. L. YUREN, Secretary.	

SIMCO MONY FIN.	
Simon Mony Finance Ltd.	
Management Office Ltd.	
60 CANON STREET LONDON E.C.4	
Telephone 01 262 1111	
Rates paid for W/F 12.79	
	Call
	% p.a.
Mon.	11.894
Tues.	11.959
Wed.	12.015
Thurs.	11.930
Fri./Sun.	12.987

FINANCIAL WEEKLY IS THE NEW FINANCIAL NEWSPAPER THAT LOOKS AT THE PEOPLE AS WELL AS THE FIGURES

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FINANCIAL WEEKLY

What the figures won't tell you, Financial Weekly will

IN EVERY ISSUE
Financial News
and Comment
City Action
Company News
Investment
Banking
Money Markets
Insurance

City Investing reports record earnings for 1978

Revenues up 24%. Net income up 32%.

City Investing Company's insurance, housing and worldwide manufacturing operations all contributed to the company's record results for 1978.

Highlights of City's earnings growth were: a significant increase in insurance investment income, a further improvement in property-casualty insurance underwriting results, and substantially higher profits in single-family homebuilding, mobile homes, magazine printing, budget motels and international manufacturing operations.

City's results include Servomation Corp., a leading food service company, from October 1, 1978, the effective date of purchase of a majority of Servomation shares by City's 66.2%-owned subsidiary, GDV, Inc. On January 27, 1979, Servomation merged with and became a wholly owned subsidiary of GDV.

City ended 1978 with a substantial order backlog in housing and good levels of incoming orders in manufacturing operations. Construction of new and enlarged manufacturing and printing facilities and additional motels has proceeded on schedule, to meet expanding market requirements.

In December, 1978, City and Uarco Incorporated, a leading manufacturer of business forms, agreed to a merger of Uarco with a City subsidiary. This merger was consummated on February 1, 1979.

City's outlook is for further earnings growth in 1979.

Geo. T. Schafflenberger
Chairman & Chief Executive Officer

SUMMARY RESULTS (UNAUDITED)

FOURTH QUARTER ENDED December 31,	1978	1977 ¹	% Increase
Revenues	\$1,094,419,000	\$ 821,910,000	33
Net Income	33,261,000	31,670,000	5
Primary Net Income Per Share ²	1.30	1.23	6
Net Income Per Share—Assuming Full Dilution ²	.90	.87	3
TWELVE MONTHS ENDED December 31,	1978	1977 ¹	% Increase
Revenues	\$3,791,875,000	\$3,064,911,000	24
Net Income	112,420,000	85,158,000	32
Primary Net Income Per Share ²	4.27	3.13	56
Net Income Per Share—Assuming Full Dilution ²	3.06	2.36	30

(1) Results for 1977 and prior periods have been restated to give effect to adoption of an American Institute of Certified Public Accountants statement of position, "Accounting for Property and Liability Insurance Companies," which specifies that certain insurance policy acquisition costs which had previously been deferred and amortized be charged to expense when incurred. While the effect has been to reduce net income for periods prior to 1977, net income for the fourth quarter and twelve months ended December 31, 1977, has been retroactively increased by \$3,345,000 and \$2,635,000, respectively. For the same respective periods, primary net income per share

has been increased by \$.15 and \$.12, and net income per share—assuming full dilution—has been increased by \$.09 and \$.07. To reflect certain reclassifications made during 1978, revenues for 1977 have been restated and reduced by \$990,000 for the fourth quarter and \$5,686,000 for the twelve months with no effect on net income.

(2) Average primary shares were 22,734,000, 22,614,000, 22,693,000 and 22,097,000 for the fourth quarter and twelve months ended December 31, 1978 and 1977. Average shares—assuming full dilution—were 37,173,000, 37,059,000, 37,136,000 and 36,543,000 for the same respective periods.

City Investing

To learn more about City Investing, contact Jerome Hanan, City Investing S.A., Stockerstrasse 38, 8002 Zurich, Switzerland.

For the convenience of readers the dates when some of the more important company dividend payments may be expected in the next few weeks are given in the following table. The dates shown are those of last year's announcements, except where the forthcoming Board meetings (indicated thus*) have been officially published. It should be emphasized that the dividends to be declared will not necessarily be at the amounts or rates per cent shown in the column headed "Announcement last year." Preliminary profit figures usually accompany final dividend announcements.

[illegible]

BASE LENDING RATES

NEW YORK—McGraw-Hill said it intends to fight a stockholder suit which has resulted in a court order requiring it to show why the 946 A share of the American Express should not be transmitted to share holders for their vote.

The business publishing company, which has previously had four stockholder suits against it, said it "believed to be of any merit" and will be defended in court," said the company.

An order signed in the Manhattan Supreme Court requiring McGraw-Hill to show why the offer should not be presented for shareholders' acceptance or rejection.

Agencies

GOLD

month	p.s.	Three months	p.s.
per Candace	1.0	1.0	1.0
0.46 pm	3.06	1.67-1.57c pm	2.3
-0.46 pm	3.06	1.57-1.57c pm	2.3
0.1e dms	-0.38	0.3e dms-pa	-0.1
-0.1e pm	-0.38	0.3e dms-pa	-0.1
0.1e pm	2.24	2.00-1.77c pm	2.2
-1.00e dms	2.24	2.00-1.77c pm	2.2
-0.97p pa	2.24	2.00-1.77c pm	2.2
-0.97p pa	6.78	3.21-3.11p pm	6.8
-0.97p pa	6.78	3.21-3.11p pm	6.8
-1.2e dms	-3.16	0.56-0.56e dms	-1.7
-1.50e dms	-2.00	3.30-3.20e dms	-4.2

[illegible]

Italian Lira	Danish Dollar	Belgian Franc
1973. 535.8	2.592 1.135	58.40 26.57
451.9 4139.	0.948 8.006	15.77 146.5
1969. 802.5	2.814 0.718	68.74 17.54
618.6 1000.	0.366 1.430	15.61 34.80
609.5 5065	1. 6.000	24.41

MONEY RATES

NEW YORK	
Prime Rate	11.5-11.75
12 Fed Funds (2-week)	70
12 Treasury Bills (26-week)	9.25
12 Treasury Bills (52-week)	9.50
GERMANY	
Discount Rate	3
Overnight Rate	3.80
One month	3.80
Three months	4.15
Six months	4.25
FRANCE	
Discount Rate	9.5
Overnight Rate	6.875
One month	6.875
Three months	6.125
Six months	6.500
JAPAN	
Discount Rate	3.5
Call (Unconditional) Rate	4.275
Bills (Discounted)	4.625

■ A.B.N. Bank	12½%	■ Hill Samuel	\$12½%
Allied Irish Banks Ltd.	12½%	C. Hoare & Co.	12½%
Amro Bank	12½%	Julian S. Hodge	13½%
American Express Bk.	14%	Hongkong & Shanghai	12½%
A P Bank Ltd.	12½%	Industrial Bk. of Scot.	12½%
Henry Ansbacher	12½%	Keyser Ullmann	12½%
Associated Cash Corp.	12½%	Klein & Co. Ltd.	12½%
Banco de Bilbao	12½%	Lloyds Bank	12½%
Bank of Credit & Comce.	12½%	London Mercantile	12½%
Bank of Cyprus	12½%	Edward Manson & Co.	13½%
Bank of N.S.W.	12½%	Midland Bank	12½%
Banque Belge Ltd.	12½%	■ Samuel Montagu	12½%
Banque du Rhone et de		■ Morgan Grenfell	12½%
la Reunion S.A.	13%	National Westminster	12½%
Barclays Bank	12½%	North City of London Trust	12½%
Bramah Holdings Ltd.	13½%	P. S. Refson & Co.	12½%
Brit. Bank of Mid. East	13½%	Rossminster	12½%
■ Brown Shipley	14%	Royal Bk. Canada Trs.	12½%
Canada Perm't Trust.	12½%	Schlesinger Limited	12½%
Cayzer Ltd.	14%	E. S. Schwab	13½%
Cedar Holdings	12½%	Security Trust Co. Ltd.	13½%
■ Charternus Japhet.	12½%	Shenley Trust	14½%
Choukroun	12½%	Shenley & Charternus	14½%
C. E. Coates	12½%	Trade Dev. Bank	12½%
Consolidated Credits	12½%	Trustee Savings Bank	12½%
Co-operative Bank	12½%	Twentieth Century Bk.	13½%
Corinthian Securities	12½%	United Bank of Kuwait	12½%
Credit Lyonnais	12½%	Whiteaway Laidlaw	13%
Duncan Lawrie	12½%	Williams & Glyn's	12½%
The Cyprus Popular Bk.	12½%	Yorkshire Bank	12½%
■ Eagle Trust	12½%		
Eastern Transatlantic	12½%	■ Members of the Accepting Houses	
First Nat. Fin. Corp.	14%	Commitments	
First Nat. Secs. Ltd.	14%	deposits 10%. 1-month	
■ Antony Gibbs	12½%	deposits 10½%.	
Greynhound Guaranty	12½%	† 7-day deposits on sums of £10,000	
Grindlays Bank	12½%	and under 10% up to £25,000	
■ Guinness Mahon	12½%	10½% and over £25,000 10½%.	
		‡ Call deposits over £10,000 10%.	

"RIGHTS" OFFERS								
Symbol	Company	Ann't Date	Latent Return Date	1978/9		Stock	Declining Share Pr.	+ or -
				High	Low			
50	P.F.	19/11/79	78	67	Associated Siscut	75		
50	P.F.	19/11/79	78	67	Baker Perkins	160		
50	NI	14/8	614	524pm	Bank of Nova Scotia	525pm	-1	
50	NI	14/8	614	525pm	Bankers Mutual Estates	26pm	-1	
50	NI	14/8	614	5pm	Scm Monitor	26pm	-1	
50	NI	14/8	614	27pm	24pm Position	36pm	-1	
50	P.F.	12/12/79	1712	144	Super Electrical Deig.	16		
50	NI	14/8	614	17pm	Barman Ryan Intl	71pm		

1. Tax-free trading on commodity futures.
2. The commodity futures market for the smaller investor.

Years	Effective from February 3 Quota loans repaid			Non-quota loans A* repaid		
	By EPT	At maturity	By EPT	At maturity	By EPT	At maturity
Up to 5	1.13%	1.4%	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4
Over 5, up to 10	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4
Over 10, up to 15	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4
Over 15, up to 20	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4
Over 20	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4

*Non-quota loans B are 1 per cent higher in each case than non-quota loans A. *Equal instalments of principal. † Repayment by half-yearly annuity.

Principal and interest. A. With half-yearly payments of interest only.



	1978	1977
	£ million	£ million
Sales	269.7	266.9
Added value	80.2	83.3
Profit before taxation	11.0	24.7
Profit attributable to Ordinary Shareholders	8.1	19.4
Funds generated from operations	18.9	30.1
Average capital employed	187.3	176.5
<hr/>		
Pre-tax return on capital employed (before interest)	9.4%	17.1%
Earnings per £1 Ordinary Share	18.3p	56.9p
Recommended Dividend per £1 Ordinary Share (including interim of 3.3p already paid)	9.9p	9.9p
Number of employees (average)	9145	9065

"The recovery in demand for our products did not occur until later in the year than had been anticipated and insufficient volume of sales throughout a large part of 1978 adversely affected profits. This was not however the only factor. The devaluation of the U.S. dollar in 1978 put pressure on prices throughout Europe with the result that the primary industry has had inadequate realisations and earnings. Our own production has also suffered through equipment failures and lower than acceptable levels of productivity and there have been exceptional costs in strengthening and re-organising some of our downstream operations. 1978 saw the start of a major capital investment programme aimed mainly at modernising our semi-fabricating operations. Capital expenditure though less than planned was £16.8m and expenditures above that level can be anticipated in 1979 and 1980."

Extract from the Chairman's statement

The full Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 1978 will be available after 7 March 1979 on request to the Company, Alcan Aluminium (UK) Ltd., Publications Dept., Alcan House, South Bar Banbury, Oxon OX16 9XJ.

50,000 people in the United Kingdom suffer from progressively paralyzing MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS—the cause and cure of which are still unknown—HELP US BRING THEM RELIEF AND HOPE


We need your donation to enable us to continue our work for the CARE and WELFARE OF MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS sufferers and to continue our commitment to find the cause and cure of MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS through MEDICAL RESEARCH.

MS Please help—Send a donation today to:
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The Multiple Sclerosis Society of G.B. and N.I.
4 Tachbrook Street,
London, SW1V 5NY

US\$20 000 000

Floating Rate Notes 1986

For the six months from 8th February, 1979, to 8th August, 1979, the Notes will carry an interest rate of 11½% per annum. The interest payable on the relevant interest payment date, 8th August, 1979, against coupon No. 1, will be \$8293.81 per US\$5,000 Note.

Agent Bank: 

BY ANTHONY ROWLEY IN HONG KONG

Journal of Management Education 30(6)

APPPOINTMENTS

Senior post at Kodak

Mr. Roy Milner has become managing director of KODAK on the resignation of Mr. F. J. Moorhead. Mr. Moorhead remains chairman.

Mr. David Watson has been appointed managing director of SERCK HEAT TRANSFER following the resignation of Mr. Malcolm Ward. Mr. Ward has relinquished his position as managing director to assume new responsibilities on the Board for long-term product and marketing development.

Mr. Brian Foster has been appointed distribution manager for BOSAL (UK).

Mr. Norman Callier and Mr. John Armstrong have been elected to the Board of BRSLOCK.

Mr. Albert Hayes has been appointed managing director of BURCESS POWER TOOLS. Mr. Donald Baker has been elected to the Board and becomes director and production administrator.

Mr. Abdul Aziz Hussain Salati has been made deputy general manager of administrative and financial affairs of the UNITED ARAB SHIPPING COMPANY. He will take over the position of general manager on January 1, 1980, and the present general manager, Mr. D. N. Tod, will continue as an adviser to the company from that date.

Dr. James R. Stoker has been appointed chief executive of the STERLING-WINTHROP GROUP. He was previously chief executive of the group's last production division.

Mr. Jim Little has been appointed commercial lending manager of the TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANK NORTH EAST to head a pioneering project to establish small businesses in the region from Darlington to Berwick on Tweed.

Mr. Keith Walker has been appointed chairman of the BRITISH DISPOSABLE PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION, following the death of Patrick Rowan. Mr. Arthur Rait has been made vice-chairman of the Association.

Mr. John Costin, area sales manager AC Delco and Mr. Denis O'Shaughnessy, Opel marketing unit manager, UK and Eire, have

joined the Board of GENERAL MOTORS LIMITED. The company has received the resignations of Mr. H. Klages, formerly director, staff operations General Motors Overseas Corporation and Mr. R. H. Johnson, formerly Opel marketing unit manager.

Mr. K. Egashira has been appointed president of NOMURA EUROPE based in London.

Mr. Derek Silver, director and general manager, has been appointed president of SPEAR AND JACKSON (CANADA). Mr. David Jackson, a director and general manager of SPEAR AND JACKSON (INDUSTRIAL), has been made managing director of that company.

Mr. John Arkell has been appointed managing director of ANGLA SWEDISH EQUIPMENT. He was previously a director and general manager of the company. It is a member of the Humble Group.

Lecturer wins £2,570 compensation

A FORMER lecturer in English language and literature at University College, Swansea, was unfairly dismissed from her post, an industrial tribunal has decided. Dr. Ruth Pryor has been awarded £2,570 compensation.

The decision, revealed to Dr. Pryor, 48, at her home in Penarth, near Swansea resulted from the re-hearing of her case in Cardiff last October. Dr. Pryor's original application to the tribunal in May, 1977 succeeded and she was awarded the same amount in compensation.

But the college went to the Employment Appeal Tribunal, headed by a High Court judge, and as a result the industrial tribunal was ordered to hear further legal argument on a new test of law on breach of contract.

Dr. Pryor said today she was now taking legal advice about suing for breach of contract and damages for loss of livelihood.

INSURANCE

Cutting the cost of house purchase

BY OUR INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

THERE HAVE always been two main ways of arranging house purchase: by a repayment mortgage, with capital and interest paid back over the years so that with the last payment the debt is extinguished; and by endowment mortgage, where the whole debt remains outstanding until the endowment matures, interest only being paid in the meantime.

For many years, in less inflationary times, sound advice for the standard-rate taxpayer was to choose the endowment mortgage, since in the long run it was cheaper, the more so if it was arranged "with profits" because the house purchaser would not only have his house but a sizable financial bonus as well when the policy fell due. Inflation has made something of a mockery of this, particularly in the case of the principle that the mortgage must be entirely covered from the outset by the basic endowment sum assured, with no account taken of the bonuses that might be expected.

Until a few years ago, building societies and life offices held it essential that there was total cover of the mortgage by endowment. More recently, the practice has grown of arranging mortgage endowments where the initial sum insured gives less than total cover and the difference is made up by bonuses expected to be allocated over the period of the loan.

Low-cost endowment

Some 60 life offices offer what have come to be called "low-cost endowments," and their number is increasing. The low-cost endowment is cheaper than the traditional full endowment because the basic sum assured is less and premium is paid at a rate per cent on that sum.

However future bonuses are calculated though, it is certain that the life offices are going to make their calculations conservatively, based on past experience, so that at policy maturity it is reasonable to assume that, when the mortgage

is repaid by the sum assured plus bonuses, there will be some surplus bonuses to go into the house purchaser's bank.

On that basis, and remembering the tax relief allowable on life assurance premiums, the house purchaser paying tax at the standard rate or above ought to find the low-cost endowment mortgage cheaper than a repayment mortgage.

Building societies have always preferred to loan by way of repayment mortgages, principally because in that way they get an immediate and continuous albeit slow, return of capital on which they can then re-lend.

However, recognising that standard rate and above taxpayers prefer endowment repayments, the societies have for some while accepted insurance repayment cover, first by full cover and now by low-cost endowment.

In 1977 more than a fifth of all new mortgages granted by the members of the Building Societies' Association were repayable by endowments. Last year's full figures are not yet available, but in the third quarter more than 25 per cent of the association's members' new loans were endowment mortgages.

Commission

Of course, by bowing to the wishes of their customers, association members are not completely altruistic in that they receive commission on the life business they introduce. That must go some way to alleviate their loss of immediate and continuing return of capital.

Ignoring individual life offices' rating variations, which may be considerable, broadly speaking the lower the cost of the endowment, the smaller the sum assured, and the greater the amount of bonuses to be taken into account to make up the ultimate repayment.

Not every low-cost endowment may therefore be acceptable to every individual building society, so anyone wishing to repay a mortgage in that way should first find out what are the criteria for low-cost endowments of his chosen building society.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

NEW YORK - JMW JONES

1978-79				Since Completion			
Feb. 9	Feb. 8	Feb. 7	Feb. 6	High	Low	High	Low
Ind. 100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Transp.	287.75	288.71	288.71	288.71	288.71	288.71	288.71
Utilities	165.11	165.11	165.11	165.11	165.11	165.11	165.11
Trading vol.	24,800	24,800	24,800	24,800	24,800	24,800	24,800
Day's high 926.49 low 817.05							

1978-79				Since Completion			
Feb. 9	Feb. 8	Feb. 7	Feb. 6	High	Low	High	Low
Ind. 100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Transp.	287.75	288.71	288.71	288.71	288.71	288.71	288.71
Utilities	165.11	165.11	165.11	165.11	165.11	165.11	165.11
Trading vol.	24,800	24,800	24,800	24,800	24,800	24,800	24,800
Day's high 926.49 low 817.05							

1978-79				Since Completion			
Feb. 9	Feb. 8	Feb. 7	Feb. 6	High	Low	High	Low
Ind. 100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Transp.	287.75	288.71	288.71	288.71	288.71	288.71	288.71
Utilities	165.11	165.11	165.11	165.11	165.11	165.11	165.11
Trading vol.	24,800	24,800	24,800	24,800	24,800	24,800	24,800
Day's high 926.49 low 817.05							

EUROPE

1978-79				Since Completion			
Feb. 9	Feb. 8	Feb. 7	Feb. 6	High	Low	High	Low
Ind. 100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Transp.	287.75	288.71	288.71	288.71	288.71	288.71	288.71
Utilities	165.11	165.11	165.11	165.11	165.11	165.11	165.11
Trading vol.	24,800	24,800	24,800	24,800	24,800	24,800	24,800
Day's high 926.49 low 817.05							

1978-79				Since Completion			
Feb. 9	Feb. 8	Feb. 7	Feb. 6	High	Low	High	Low
Ind. 100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Transp.	287.75	288.71	288.71	288.71	288.71	288.71	288.71
Utilities	165.11	165.11	165.11	165.11	165.11	165.11	165.11
Trading vol.	24,800	24,800	24,800	24,800	24,800	24,800	24,800
Day's high 926.49 low 817.05							

1978-79				Since Completion			
Feb. 9	Feb. 8	Feb. 7	Feb. 6	High	Low	High	Low
Ind. 100	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Transp.	287.75	288.71	288.71	288.71	288.71	288.71	288.71
Utilities	165.11	165.11	165.11	165.11	165.11	165.11	165.11
Trading vol.	24,800	24,800	24,800	24,800	24,800	24,800	24,800
Day's high 926.49 low 817.05							

1978-79				Since Completion			
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Trading vol.	24,800	24,800	24,800	24,800	24,800	24,800	24,800
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Transp.	287.75	288.71	288.71	288.71	288.71	288.71	288.71
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Trading vol.	24,800	24,800	24,800	24,800	24,800	24,800	24,800
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1978-79				Since Completion			
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Trading vol.	24,800	24,800	24,800	24,800	24,800	24,800	24,800
Day's high 926.49 low 817.05							

1978-79			Since Completion		
High	Low	Stock	Feb. 9		
22 3/4	17 3/4	Woolworth	19 1/2		
7 1/2	5 1/2	W	6 1/2		
				Alliant Version..	405 +2.5 31.2
				BMW	235.3 -1.7 28.12
				BASF	154.7 +0.9 18.76
				Bayer	157.1 +0.6 18.76
				Bayer-Hypo	275 -1 26.12

INTERNATIONAL BONDS

BY JOHN EVANS

The bond window slams shut

THE BRIEF "window" for new issue activity in Eurodollar bonds, created largely by moderating short-term American interest rates in the past few weeks, appeared to have slammed tightly shut last week.

A rebound in New York money market rates, the weakening dollar and the tightening energy crisis for the Western world after the disruption in Iran, exerted fresh pressure on bonds, both seasoned issues and new offerings.

Net losses in secondary trading last week ranged up to a full point, nudging the yield structure back towards 10 per cent again.

The appearance of the so-called "window" had given bond managers the first real opportunity in several months to take advantage of improving market conditions and introduce new issues. However, reflecting the unregulated nature of primary activity, the issue calendar rapidly built up last week to more than \$1bn of offerings — the highest volume in about two years.

By Friday, several managers must have been ruefully counting up the costs of their operations. One leading market participant estimates that, of the \$1bn plus of bonds — both those now being fully traded and those still in syndicate — only \$400m to \$500m will finish up with retail investors in the foreseeable future. The view is that "this market is still full of undigested paper."

With prices retreating across the board early casualties quickly appeared among several of the new bonds, which dropped to discounts which created yields of 10 per cent and more.

The New Brunswick Electric Power 13-year bond whose coupon was cut to 8 1/2 per cent from 170 and priced at 99 1/2, dropped sharply to 97 1/2 in first-time trading — yielding more than the originally expected coupon.

The prestigious Sears Roebuck three-year 9 per cent notes fell to 98 1/2 initially, before a slight recovery which left its return in the 9.70 per cent area.

This was the first of the latest issues to be fully underwritten by the managing group — an interesting shift of emphasis in primary market management. But the combined weight of new issues and sharp break by the secondary market still gave some of the new offerings a rough ride.

By mid-week, new issues were frequently being quoted at discounts equal to the full selling group concessions, with reports that some co-managers were even unloading certain bonds at below these levels.

Some other disturbing signs emerged in the dollar market last week.

The inverse yield curve fully reappeared in the Eurodollar inter-bank market, taking six-month deposits up to 1 1/4 per cent versus 1 1/8 on one-year funds.

Added to this, some of the largest professional trading banks appeared to be cutting their capital commitments again. Such a trimming of inventories threatens to further weaken the structure of the

secondary market. Although the dollar recovered slightly on Friday, the prospects for any further deals seem dim. Honda is to offer a \$50m convertible over 10 years at an indicated 5 1/2 per cent, matched by a Swiss franc convertible.

A planned Deutsche mark tranche has been dropped. A two-tranche dollar bond from a governmental borrower is also being rumoured, but plans for a \$200m offering appear to have been shelved.

However, an attempt may be made in the near future to tap the very long-end of the straight dollar market through a 20-year offering from Hydro-Quebec. The aim is to tempt the large institutional investors prepared to lock away funds for very long maturities.

Such an exercise may also show whether the Eurobond market can provide an effective alternative to its Yankee bond counterpart, where long maturities are a regular feature.

While attention was focused on dollar paper, the Deutsche mark market was also un-

settled last week. The DM 50m Bank of Tokyo issue, via Deutsche Bank had its coupon raised to 6 per cent from 5 1/2 per cent, with pricing at par. The main pressures came from the domestic DM bond sector, which retreated sharply, dragging up yields on Euro-DM issues. The whole German capital market is undergoing a painful readjustment, with interest rates rising in response to the monetary steps of the Bundesbank to mop up liquidity created by past foreign exchange intervention.

In addition, interest rate pressures are being caused by sharp domestic mortgage demand in response to real estate price inflation of 25 to 35 per cent annually.

Eurosterling bonds suffered losses of up to two full points on the week. The sharp rise in London money market interest rates, culminating in the raising of minimum lending rates to 14 per cent, badly shook this market.

In Swiss francs, a coupon of 3 1/2 per cent and issue price of par have been set for the Sfrs 100m 12-year bond for the Kingdom of Denmark via Credit Suisse.

The Y30bn offering for Brazil for 10 years will bear 7 per cent, with an issue price of 99.7. Nomura Securities is lead manager.

The Euxine computerised Eurobond trading and information system should become operational before the end of June, according to M. Remy Kremer, the system chairman. The start-up date had been put back owing to technical delays, but the system now has some 30 subscribers.

Kremer acknowledges that there has been resistance to the system in the London-based side of the Eurobonds, but believes that this is abating.

This kind of analysis is borne out by the news from Japan on borrowers' future plans. It seems that some, at least, of the remaining borrowers scheduled to place D-mark convertibles during this quarter are considering an attempt to switch to Swiss francs.

Even more striking, of the 45-odd applications to the Japanese authorities for permission to launch foreign convertibles in the second quarter, about 35 are apparently for issues denominated in Swiss francs. Of the remaining ten, about five are for D-mark issues (compared with a scheduled 12 in the current quarter) and five in dollars.

U.S. BONDS

Rate outlook darkens again

BY DAVID LASCELLES

WITH THE uncertainties of the credit markets characterised by the commercial banks' move to a split prime rate, bond prices proved highly volatile last week after their strong January rally, and most of their earlier gains were wiped out. The financial community believes that interest rates will remain high, despite one or two signs to the contrary, postponing any sustained recovery in the value of fixed income securities.

The meeting of the Fed's open market committee on Tuesday

added to the market's nervousness although monetary policy appears unchanged. Fed funds were still trading at around 10 1/4 per cent at the end of the week. The minutes of the FOMC meeting in December, released last week, revealed that the Fed funds' target set them was 10 per cent or slightly higher.

Citibank followed Chase Manhattan's lead and cut its prime rate to 11 1/2 per cent on Friday, but the move was dictated by its formula based on the cost of commercial paper rather than

on any fundamental judgment about the state of credit.

The reluctance of other banks to cut their prime is based on the belief that short-term rates went through a seasonal weakening in January, and that the underlying trend is still upward. Supporting this view is the fact that the cost of short-term instruments started edging up again last week: one month commercial paper rose 5 basis points to 9.75 per cent, and six-month Treasury bills were up 10 points to 9.38 per cent on a discounted basis.

The move was aided by a comment from Mr. William Miller, Fed chairman, that it was premature to assume that rates had peaked.

A lot of other news affected the market, notably the situation in Iran with its weakening effect on the dollar, and the latest producer price index which showed a 1.3 per cent gain in January. The sharp rise in oil prices, which was a decline, but this trend is a sharp rise in oil prices, which is beginning to lose credibility.

JAPANESE CONVERTIBLES

BY MARY CAMPBELL

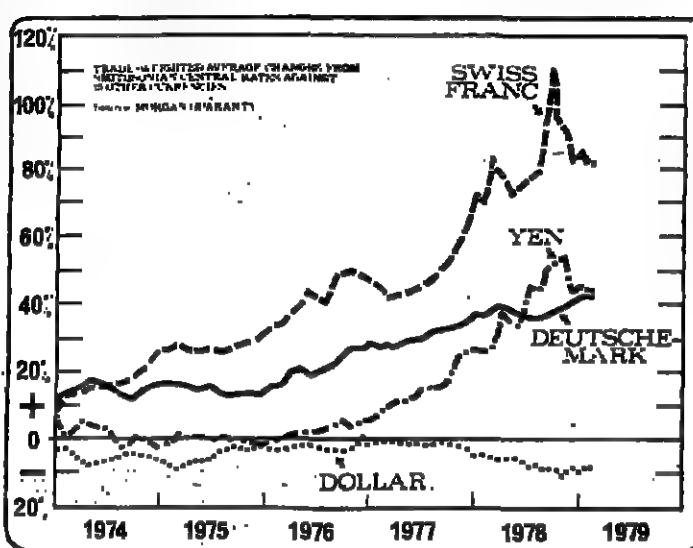
Weak end to a weak week

THE FUTURE of Japanese convertible issues looks problematical. Last week Honda Motor cancelled its proposed D-mark convertible, while others in D-marks, which started trading recently have moved to deep discounts — after-market quotations for Minoita Camera and Tokyu Land, for example, ranged between 93 and 95 per cent of the issue price.

Swiss franc convertibles for Japanese companies have taken the form of private placements, so the change in sentiment is not nearly so visible. But banks report that despite the removal of the limits to non-Swiss purchases of Swiss franc denominated foreign paper, primary demand for Japanese convertibles is very much lower than last year.

The reasons for the turnaround in these convertibles are clear: all the positive reasons which accounted for buying last year have now vanished. First over a period of weeks, the magnetism which drew many into paper involving an initial investment in D-marks or Swiss francs with a yen option has evaporated as currency expectations have stabilised.

Second, the Tokyo stock exchange has moved sharply lower, destroying for the moment at least the other big pull of Japanese convertibles.



By the close of business on Friday the Tokyo stock exchange index stood at 449.88, down by 3 per cent in ten days from the 1978-79 high of 462.97 which it had recorded on January 31.

The market for Japanese convertibles is peculiarly vulnerable to a change in currency or stock exchange trends, because of the very large volume of paper issued in the last year.

Dealers have always said that there is a very strong specu-

lative element in the demand and even before the stock prices started to move sharply lower in the last 10 days the Deutsche Mark sector at least was already suffering from acute indigestion.

Although the Japanese have raised coupons on new DM issues from 3 1/2 to 4 per cent in the last six weeks, dealers argue that this is not nearly enough to take account of the deterioration in demand.

There may be more flexibility in the Swiss franc sector where

coupon rates generally are lower and where the volume of earlier issues is smaller. The going rate in Switzerland at present is 2 1/2 per cent and dealers were last week arguing that a rate of 3 1/2 might well do the trick (after all, the rate on straight bonds is only 3 1/4 per cent). Although there is apparently no sign of Japanese borrowers accepting this level yet, their traditional tendency to attach more weight to coupon levels than to currency risk, combined with the lower absolute level of rates, leaves the Swiss market with some attraction for them.

Even more striking, of the 45-odd applications to the Japanese authorities for permission to launch foreign convertibles in the second quarter, about 35 are apparently for issues denominated in Swiss francs. Of the remaining ten, about five are for D-mark issues (compared with a scheduled 12 in the current quarter) and five in dollars.

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STRAIGHTS					
Agg. Aft. 8 1/2	25	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
Australia 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
Australia 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12

DEUTSCHE MARK	Issued	Bid	Offer	Change	Yield
STRAIGHTS					
Agg. Aft. 8 1/2	25	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
Australia 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
Australia 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12

SWISS FRANC	Issued	Bid	Offer	Change	Yield
STRAIGHTS					
Agg. Aft. 8 1/2	25	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
Australia 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
Australia 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12

YEN STRAIGHTS	Issued	Bid	Offer	Change	Yield
Agg. Aft. 8 1/2	25	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
Australia 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
Australia 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12

OTHER STRAIGHTS	Issued	Bid	Offer	Change	Yield
Agg. Aft. 8 1/2	25	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
Australia 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
Australia 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12

FLOATING RATE NOTES	Issued	Bid	Offer	Change	Yield
Agg. Aft. 8 1/2	25	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
Australia 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
Australia 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	17	94 1/2	95 1/2	+0.01	10.12

BONDS/STRAIGHTS INDEX AND YIELD

Index	Yield
Agg. Aft. 8 1/2	10.12
Australia 8 1/2	10.12
Australia 8 1/2	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	10.12

CONVERTIBLE BONDS

Index	Yield
Agg. Aft. 8 1/2	10.12
Australia 8 1/2	10.12
Australia 8 1/2	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	10.12
CECA 8 1/2	10.12

The list shows the 200 most international bonds

AUTHORISED UNIT TRUSTS

[illegible]

MannLife Management Ltd.

[illegible]

Final Test Minutes

[illegible]

U.S. (a)(1)(2) Save & Print

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Securities—contd.

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et Tst, Mngn, contd

Gen. Sec. 7	28.2	-0.1	
Gen. Sec. 8	28.2	-0.1	
Gen. Sec. 9	28.2	-0.1	
Gen. Sec. 10	28.2	-0.1	
Gen. Sec. 11	28.2	-0.1	
Gen. Sec. 12	28.2	-0.1	
Gen. Sec. 13	28.2	-0.1	
Gen. Sec. 14	28.2	-0.1	
Gen. Sec. 15	28.2	-0.1	
Gen. Sec. 16	28.2	-0.1	
Gen. Sec. 17	28.2	-0.1	
Gen. Sec. 18	28.2	-0.1	
Gen. Sec. 19	28.2	-0.1	
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Gen. Sec. 24	28.2	-0.1	
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Gen. Sec. 27	28.2	-0.1	
Gen. Sec. 28	28.2	-0.1	
Gen. Sec. 29	28.2	-0.1	
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Gen. Sec. 95	28.2	-0.1	
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Gen. Sec. 97	28.2	-0.1	
Gen. Sec. 98	28.2	-0.1	
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SHORE A

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INSURANCE AND PROPERTY BONDS

[illegible]

OFFSHORE AND OVERSEAS FUNDS

[illegible]

NOTES

Years do not include \$ premium, except where indicated ϕ , and are in pence unless otherwise stated. ψ (shown in last column) allow for all buying expenses. ϕ Offered prices include Today's prices. ψ Yield based on offer price. ϕ Estimated. ψ Today's opening price. ϕ Dist. UK taxes. ψ Periodic premium insurance plan. ϕ Single premium insurance. ϕ Offered prices represent agent's commission. ψ Offered price includes all expenses if bought through Previous day's price. ϕ Net of tax on realized capital gains unless indicated by ϕ . ψ Est. Suspended. ϕ Yield before Jersey tax. ψ Excluded subscription. ψ Only available to clients.

CORAL INDEX: 450-451

INSURANCE BASE RATES	
†Property Growth.....	12%
†Vanbroghe Guaranteed.....	12.62%

Address shown under Insurance and Property Bond Table.

INSURANCE BASE RATES

†Property Growth	12%
†Vanbrugh Guaranteed	12.62%

†Address shown under Insurance and Property Bond Table.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CONSUMER CREDIT
ACT 1974The Director General
of Fair Trading
Bromyard Avenue
Acton
London W3 7BB

is considering the application of THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS IN ENGLAND AND WALES (P.O. BOX 433, CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS' HALL, MOORGATE PLACE, LONDON EC3P 2BJ) for a Group Licence covering all Chartered Accountants who, for the time being, hold a practising certificate issued by the Institute and which is in force. The licence sought, if granted, would cover the following types of business: consumer credit, credit brokerage and debt-adjusting and debt-counselling; limited to activities arising in the course of a practice as a Chartered Accountant. The Director General will take into account any information relevant to the application being made by the Institute.

A Group Licence shall be issued to the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales only if the Director General is satisfied that the public interest is better served by this course than by obliging members of the Institute concerned to apply separately for Standard Licences.

CONSUMER CREDIT ACT 1974

The Director General of Fair Trading
Bromyard Avenue
Acton, London W3 7BB

is considering the application of the Association of Certified Accountants (29, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3DD) for a Group Licence covering those members of the Association who, for the time being, hold a practising certificate issued by the Association, and which is in force. The licence sought, if granted, would cover the following types of business: consumer credit, credit brokerage and debt-adjusting and debt-counselling; limited to activities arising in the course of a practice as a Certified Accountant. The Director General will take into account any information relevant to the application being made by the Association.

A Group Licence shall be issued to the Association of Certified Accountants only if the Director General is satisfied that the public interest is better served by this course than by obliging members of the Association concerned to apply separately for Standard Licences.

COMPANY NOTICES

OLYMPUS OPTICAL COMPANY, LTD.

(OLYMPUS KOGAKU KOGYO KABUSHIKI KAISHA)

Yen 3.75 per Common Share of Yen 50 has been paid to shareholders on the basis of the above company as at 31st October, 1978 in respect of the six months period ended 31st September 1978. As a result the Company is entitled to a dividend of Yen 75 which will be paid to shareholders on 15th February, 1979 of Yen 20.00 = U.S.\$1.00 - produces U.S.\$0.67827 per Shareholder Share.

After adding the fractional amount towards the last dividend, in accordance with the terms of the Share Certificate, the amount payable will be paid at the following rates per Shareholder Share:

Under deduction 15% Japanese Withholding Tax = U.S.\$0.10125
Under deduction of 20% Japanese Withholding Tax = U.S.\$0.2025
A fractional amount of U.S.\$0.00253 per Shareholder Share is withheld and will be added to the next dividend when paid.

Holders of Share Certificates may present for payment Coupon No. 54 which becomes valid on 15th February, 1979 to S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd., Common Department, St. Albans House, Goldsmith Street, London, EC2P 2DL or at the offices of any of the undermentioned Sub-Depositories subject to deduction of Japanese Withholding Tax and Income Tax (if any) at the appropriate rates. Details of tax deductions may be obtained from the Depository or Sub-Depository.

Name	SUB-DEPOSITORIES	Address
The Bank of Tokyo, Ltd.		Brussels, Belgium
The Bank of Tokyo, Ltd.		Düsseldorf, Germany
The Bank of Tokyo, Ltd.		Paris, France
The Bank of Tokyo Trust Company		New York, U.S.A.
Algemeine Bank Nederland N.V.		Amsterdam, Netherlands
Banque Generale du Luxembourg S.A.		Luxembourg

S. G. WARBURG & CO. LTD.,
20 Gresham Street,
London, EC2P 2BB,
is Depository.

12th February, 1979.

BASS CHARRINGTON LIMITED

7% 1973/1991 EUA 30,000,000

Notice is hereby given to Bondholders of the above loan that the amount redeemable on March 1st, 1979 i.e. UA 1,050,000 was bought in the market.

Amount outstanding: UA 24,450,000.
Principal Paying Agent: Kredietbank S.A. Luxembourggoise.
Luxembourg, February 12, 1979.

CANADIAN NORTH ATLANTIC WESTBOUND FREIGHT CONFERENCE
CANADA-UNITED KINGDOM FREIGHT CONFERENCE
NOTICE TO SHIPPERS AND CONSIGNEES
INLAND RATES CHANGES IN ENGLAND, SCOTLAND AND WALES

The member lines of the above Conference wish to advise shippers and consignees that, consequent upon the recent increase in the inland haulage industry, an additional calculation in road haulage costs is inevitable and inland rates are being adjusted accordingly. Accordingly the member lines have no alternative but to introduce an emergency surcharge of 5 per cent on all inland rates and charges with effect from February 26th, 1979 in order to recover the increased costs.

On the impact of the settlements in the road haulage industry can be more precisely assessed, a further review of inland rates and charges will be necessary, and an announcement in respect thereof will be made at a later date.

ATLANTIC COAST C.L.E.
CANADIAN PACIFIC STEAMSHIPS LTD.
SABY CONTAINER LINE LTD.
HAPAG-LLOYD A.G.
MANCHESTER STEAMSHIP LTD. (Memberships)
GOLDEN CROSS LINE LTD. (Joint)
ERNEST ROSS WESTBOUND ONLY
CANADIAN SECRETARIAT LTD. (Secretaries)

Conard Building,
Liverpool L3 1TS
12th February, 1979.

PERSONAL

FLORENCE - Learn Italian quickly and well at the British Institute. Course March 5-April 13, March 5-March 30, April 17-May 25, April 17-May 11. Also 4-week intensive courses 20 hours per week March 5 and April 17. Accommodation arranged with Italian families. Apply British Institute, Lingua Guisardini 9, 50125 Florence, Tel. 284.631.

ART GALLERIES

AGNEW GALLERIES, 43 Old Bond St., W.1. 01-229 6176. 106th ANNUAL WATER-COLOUR EXHIBITION, until 24 February. Mon-Fri. 9.30-5.30. Thurs. until 7.

BROWNE & DARRBY, 19, Cork St. W.1. Philip Sutton - Recent Paintings.

CRANE KALMAN GALLERY, 178, Bromfield Road, S.W.5. 01-584 7550. 20th CENTURY ENGLISH AND EUROPEAN PAINTINGS AND SCULPTURE including works by D. G. Elgar, Howard, Moore, Nicholson, van Doren, etc. until 20 February. Mon-Fri. 10-6. Sat. 10-4.

FELDBERG GALLERIES, 83, Ossington Road, N.W.5. Telephone 01-585 5600. CONTEMPORARY BRITISH ART. Mon-Fri. 10-6. Sat. 10-4.

THE ART SOCIETY, 188, New Bond St. W.1. 01-729 5116. BRITISH ARTS 18th 20th Century.



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Postcode

TO: MARKETING DEPARTMENT
INVESTORS CHARTER, ICN LTF FREEPOST, LONDON EC4P 4BY
Reg. Address: Bracken House, 10 Cannon Street, London EC4P 4BY. Reg. No. 50556

SANYO ELECTRIC
CO., LTD.Curacao Depository Receipts
of Ordinary Shares

Holders of the above-mentioned CDRs are informed that the Annual General Meeting of Shareholders will be held at Osaka on February 27, 1979.

In addition to the business customarily on the agenda, the following motion will be discussed:

Declaration of the final dividend of Yen 3 for the financial year ending November 30th, 1978, payable on February 28th, 1979.

As from November 27th, 1978, the shares have been traded ex-dividend in Japan. The dividend is expected to be made payable in the Netherlands mid-March 1979. Until then, the CDRs will be traded cum dividend in Amsterdam.

As soon as the English versions of the Notice convening the Meeting together with the relevant explanatory notes have been received, they will be made available for inspection at the offices of the undersigned and The Sunbom Bank Limited, London.

Amsterdam, February 8th, 1979.
BANK MEES & HOPE NV
as duly authorised Agents of
Carneth Administration Company N.V.

MOTOR CARS

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245 DL AUTO. Red
244 DL MANUAL. Sunroof, Black
246 GL AUTO. Blue Metallic
266 GL AUTO. Gold Metallic

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DENIS BROOKLANDS
47 Streatham Hill
SW2

01-674 4493/4

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WOODING

Formerly Hurst Park Autos (Riley Ltd)

MERCEDES-BENZ
1978 GL 450 SLC. Met. silver green.
6,000 cc. 16v. Many extras.
1978 190 2.0 16v. white/black. Many
extras. 51,000.
1977 190 2.0 16v. 10,000 cc.
1978 190 2.0 16v. 4,000 cc.

SCIMITAR

1978 190 2.0 16v. 4,000 cc.

VANDEN PLAS

1978 4.2. 4,000 cc.

LANCIA

1978 Coupé, 2,500 cc. 16v. 44,000.

JAGUAR

1974 Model 3.2. 3,000 cc. 37,000.

High Street, Ripley, Surrey
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FINANCIAL TIMES
10 CANNON STREET, LONDON EC4P 4BY
For further information contact Simon Hicks
Tel: 01-248 5115

BUSINESSMAN'S DIARY

UK TRADE FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS

Date	Title	Venue
Current	Intl. Spring Fair (01-489 7384) (until Feb. 8)	Exbn. Centre, Birmingham
Current	AMECE: Coal Preparation Plant Exhibition (061-833 6541) (until Feb. 9)	Exbn. Centre, Harrogate
Feb. 13-15	Catering, Licensed Trade, Hotel and Club Exbn. (0202 21512)	Falcon Rooms Metropole Centre, Brighton
Feb. 15-20	Intl. Swimming Pool and Allied Trades Exbn. (01-681 7055)	Olympia
Feb. 15-22	International Men's and Boys' Wear Exhibition (0202 705 6707)	Wembley Conference Centre
Feb. 19-23	Photography at Work Exhibition (01-688 7783)	Exbn. Centre, Birmingham
Feb. 19-25	The Energy Show (0822 4671)	Alexandra Palace
Feb. 24-Mar. 4	National Custom Car Show 1979 (01-688 7181)	Chelsea Old Town Hall
Mar. 6-17	Chelsea Antiques Fair (55 56089)	Earls Court
Mar. 6-31	Daily Mail Ideal Home Exhibition (01-353 4000)	Alexandra Palace
Mar. 10-18	Boys and Girls Exhibition (0832 620361)	Exbn. Centre, Birmingham
Mar. 12-16	Labex Intl. (Lab. Diagnostic and Medical Inst. Exhibition) (021-705 6707)	

OVERSEAS TRADE FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS

Current	International Motor Show (until Feb. 18)	Amsterdam
Current	International Toy Exhibition (01-439 3964) (until Feb. 18)	Paris
Current	Canadian Hardware Show (021-455 9600) (until Feb. 14)	Toronto
Feb. 13-16	Asia Aquatic '79-Intl. Water Technology Exbn.	Singapore
Feb. 15-20	SEHMOM - Men's Fashion Show	Zurich
Feb. 20-25	Architectural Profile Systems Exhibition	Basle

BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT CONFERENCES

Current	Grainfield School: Young Managers Course (0234 751122) (until Feb. 23)	Grainfield, Bedford
Feb. 13-23	CEI: International Financial Management Seminar (023 471133)	Hong Kong
Feb. 12-13	CRC: The Future of the Rural Community Conference (01-486 1951)	Café Royal, W1
Feb. 12-16	CBO: Reliability Engineering, Advanced Technology and Industrial Applications (010-139020)	Rotterdam
Feb. 13-14	IPM: Recruitment Advertising and Communications (01-387 2844)	Whites Hotel, W2
Feb. 13-17	The Clothing Institute: Careers in Clothing and Footwear (01-203 0191)	Hendon, NW4
Feb. 14	Marchmont Conferences: Personal Tax Savings for Directors (01-491 7812)	Hilton Hotel, W1
Feb. 14	ESC: Marriage and Non-Marriage (067-282 2711)	Hilton Hotel, W1
Feb. 14	SBMG: Markets for Building Materials and Components-Where should we be looking? (01-636 6920)	Cavendish Conference Centre Royal Festival Hall, SE1
Feb. 14	LAMSAC: Computers and Privacy (01-626 2333)	Northumberland Avenue, WC2
Feb. 14	The Institution of Metallurgists: Fracture Mechanics (01-446 2251)	Frankfurt am Main
Feb. 14-15	FT Conference: Finance and Trade in the 1980s (01-206 4382)	Kensington Palace Hotel, W8
Feb. 15-16	Abacus: Counterfeiting and Piracy-Do you really know if your goods are being forged? (07783 4471)	Café Royal, W1
Feb. 16	Henry Stewart: Rent Review Conference (01-488 2382)	Royal Lancaster Hotel, W2
Feb. 19-20	Institute for International Research: Internal Auditors Conference (01-388 2663)	Connaught Rooms, WC2
Feb. 19-20	Frank Jellinek: Planning PR Programmes (01-457 2911)	Portman Hotel, W1
Feb. 19-21	AMR International: Software Engineering: The Key to Quality Systems (01-262 2732)	Carlton Tower, SW1
Feb. 20	Oryx/IBC: Dealing with Redundancies-An Update on Law and Practice (01-242 2481)	Inn on the Park, W1
Feb. 20	CCC: Institutional Investment in Agriculture (01-222 6362)	Grosvenor House Hotel, W1
Feb. 21-23	FT Conference: The Euromarkets in 1979 (01-236 4382)	Cannon St., EC4
Feb. 21	LCCI: Opportunities for Consulting Engineers in the Middle East and North Africa (01-248 4444)	Madrid London Press Centre
Feb. 21-26	National Association of Pension Funds: European Conference (01-681 2017)	Moorgate Place, EC2
Feb. 22-23	CCC: Export Finance and Credit (01-222 6362)	Horsham, Sussex
Feb. 23	Institute of Chartered Accountants: Control of Energy Costs (01-626 7050)	Woking, Surrey
Feb. 25-Mar. 2	IPM: Assessment and Design-for Selection and Management Development (029 353 344)	Whites Hotel, W2
Feb. 25-Mar. 1	BTSC: Finance and Accounting for Management (04862 5444)	Inn on the Park, W1
Feb. 26-Mar. 1	IPM: Job Evaluation (01-387 2844)	Cavendish Conference Centre
Feb. 26-28	CEI: World Energy Economics (01-353 4774)	Hilton Hotel, W1
Feb. 26	ESC: Suggestion Schemes (067282 2711)	Royal Garden Hotel, W3
Feb. 25-28	Institute of Internal Auditors-UK: Computer-Aided Control and Security (0480 58050)	Waldorf Hotel, WC2
Feb. 27	CCC: Minimising Liability in Trans-European Road Haulage (01-222 6362)	
Feb. 27	BCPA: The Secretary's Environment (01-405 1023)	

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Polaris Silver with

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ENGINEERING—Continued

Oct. 1964 (D.F.)	56	28	16	17
Sept. Birmist Quacast	74	53	7	5
July Broughen. Min	74	43	7	5

Feb. 15	ham Pallet 10p	80	15.1	6.25	2.0	11
Dec.	Blackw'd Hodge	51	70.70	42.26	4.4	5
		22	70.70	41.74	2.0	10

[illegible]

Sept	Malitte 50p	228	21.7	6.55	2.9	7.1
Sept	Harrison 5p	142	7.8	100.7	2.6	7.1

Dec.	Hawker Sid.	197	1311	74-1	3
	Hawthorn L. 50p.	70	1175	LOT 6	2
Apr.	Hill & Smith	62	78	H35	7

[illegible]

July	Spencer Gears Sp	15	13.77	0.6	4.5	5.6
June	Spirax-Sarco	160	30.10	114.54	2.8	4.2
Nov	Stamco	700	2.10	2.80	5.0	5.0

Jan.	Staveley Inds. £1	286	13.11	H10.05	4.5	5.9
May	Stone-Platt	100	2.10	94.05	4.8	6.1
Apr.	Stothert & Pitt £1	198	13.11	H12.85	4.5	9.7

[illegible]

Months	Day	Stock	Price	Months	Day	Stock	Price
May	1st	Charles T. Co.	100	Nov	1st	Charles T. Co.	100
May	15th	Oct. 1st	100	Nov	15th	Oct. 1st	100
May	30th	Oct. 1st	100	Nov	30th	Oct. 1st	100
Jun	1st	Oct. 1st	100	Dec	1st	Oct. 1st	100
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FINANCE LAND *Continued*[illegible]

Monday February 12 1979

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Pact with TUC may not stem action

BY PAULINE CLARK, LABOUR STAFF

THE NATIONWIDE programme of industrial action by Britain's 1.5m public service workers goes into its third week today with apparently little chance of a solution emerging from next Wednesday's expected signing of a "concordat" between the Government and the TUC.

The Prime Minister will attempt to raise party morale with a report on the agreement with the TUC to a joint meeting of Labour MPs and the party's national executive at the Commons on Wednesday. At Mr. Callaghan's suggestion, trade union members of the NEC will be given the right for the first time at such a meeting, to join in the discussion.

Union leaders were agreed yesterday that there was nothing in the new long-term agreement on wage bargaining conduct which could change the aspirations of the public service workers in seeking to keep pace with the general level of settlements in outside industry in the present pay round.

At the most, confirmation that some sort of special relationship between the Labour Government and the unions still exists could, as one union leader put it, "improve the atmosphere of talks."

The proposed concordat sets out a code of practice on volun-

tary good behaviour during wage bargaining which would be presented by the Government as its alternative to the Conservative proposals for amendments in the law to lessen damage by strikes.

Ironically, the TUC general council will be deciding whether to endorse what amounts to a political agreement in a week when major public services unions will be carrying out plans to step up industrial action by council workers and hospital ancillary staff.

The General and Municipal Workers' Union said yesterday that it had now authorised 11,000 workers to take part in official disputes. It had extended the work-to-rule and overtime bans operating widely in local authority services.

The 105,000-strong Society of Civil and Public Servants, which is joining with the 230,000-strong Civil and Public Services Association in a campaign of industrial action on February 23, yesterday condemned the Government's "hypocrisy" in calling on unions to observe agreed procedures.

The attack was made in a detailed circular sent to all members by Mr. Gerry Gillman, the society's general secretary. Meanwhile, deadlock remains in the pay dispute affecting the

public service workers and hospital ancillary staff who have rejected an 8.8 per cent pay offer.

The National Union of Public Employees yesterday threatened to extend action in areas where Tory-controlled councils such as Westminster have said they will bring in private contractors to remove refuse building up as a result of action by dustmen.

John Elliott writes: A proposal contained in the concordat for an annual economic assessment to be made by the Government and both sides of industry is likely to be opposed by the Confederation of British Industry which is publishing its own ideas for a new national economic forum tomorrow.

The CBI opposes the idea of the Government and industry meeting together to decide what the country can afford on wages, prices and other issues. Such a notion carried too many overtones of the "corporate state".

Instead the CBI wants the new forum to carry out a public debate about the country's economy to help educate people about what can be afforded. The debate could either take place in a new Parliamentary Select Committee or in an expanded National Economic Development Council.

Support ebbing for Scottish devolution—poll

BY RAY PERMAN, SCOTTISH CORRESPONDENT

ON THE DAY the Prime Minister is to launch Labour's devolution campaign in Scotland, a poll shows support for the policy is ebbing.

Mr. James Callaghan is due in Glasgow today to make a major speech at a rally which will signal the final run-up to the referendum on March 1.

The Labour Party, Scottish TUC and Co-operative Movement are devoting considerable resources to the devolution fight, on which the Government's credibility in its Scottish power base could depend.

But an opinion poll conducted by the System Three organisation and published in this morning's Glasgow Herald, shows that support for the establishment of a legislative assembly has fallen to 45 per cent.

Last month the figure was 52 per cent and in October it was 58.

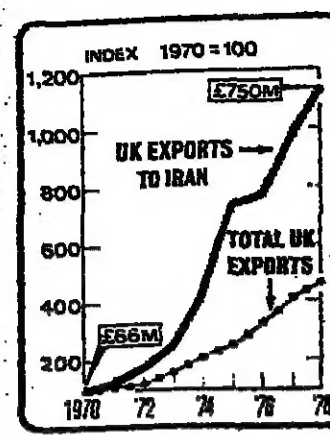
Those who said they would vote "No" in the referendum accounted for 35 per cent, against 29 per cent in January and October.

It is clear that doubts about devolution have been raised in many people's minds by the strong campaign waged by the anti-devolution umbrella group, Scotland Says No.

Further raising of banks' reserve requirements have asserted more pressure. As recently as the middle of last month these problems were still being shrugged off as the Commercial Bank share index recovered to around 940, within 3 per cent of the peak reached last October. But last Wednesday the index dipped to below 800 though it steadied towards the end of the week. In a harsher climate there is now a risk that the more severe stance of German monetary policy may affect not only the immediate DM-zone countries such as the Netherlands but also France.

Germany has proportionately more involvement in Iran than most of its trading partners. The power station contracts of the Siemens subsidiary Kraftwerk Union are a spectacular example of German exposure to the country and Siemens shares have gone very much out of favour. The major banks are supposed to be heavily lent in Iran and their shares, too, have been very weak. Germany's traditional dependence on Iran for the bulk of its oil supplies has intensified the market's worries.

With exporters' claims starting to pile up the Export Credit Guarantee Department remains remarkably relaxed—outwardly at least—about the deteriorating economic situation in Iran. Last week, its U.S. counterpart, Eximbank, stopped issuing new credits and guarantees for exports to Iran. So far ECGD has not panicked. Existing credit lines remain open, if anyone wants to do business, and the official line is that "due underwriting precautions" are being taken. But if Iran really goes sour it could prove to be one of the biggest setbacks in ECGD's distinguished 60-year career.



increase was included, and the figure compared badly with the previous January's 8.8 per cent. Germany is steering hard for 4 per cent inflation this year.

The yield on 10 year government bonds has now risen to around 7 1/2 per cent from 5 1/2 per cent over nine months. This, some acceleration of the rate occurring since the beginning of the Lombard rate. The Bundesbank has been supporting the market by buying in an average DM50m of bonds a day, which may prevent panic among bond dealers, but makes it harder for the monetary targets to be achieved.

The rise in interest rates has disturbed the DM foreign bond market, where would-be buyers have suddenly found their paper uncompetitive with the German Government's own bonds. If interest rates stabilise, the domestic bond market, offering substantial real returns, will be likely to divert a good deal of institutional money out of the equity market, which will depend on just how strong the German economy turns out to be this year.

The French Bourse, still in a consolidation phase after last year's very sharp rise, has been particularly vulnerable to the most recent turn of events in Iran. With the European Monetary System operating automatically to the extent that the DM has been trading in the FF 3.20/30 range virtually since the beginning of the year, and with French inflation holding at around 9 per cent, it is now very difficult to see some transmission of higher interest rates from Germany.

Decision today on steel strike

BY PAULINE CLARK, LABOUR STAFF

LEADERS OF 30,000 craftsmen in the British Steel Corporation will decide today whether to strike from next week, possibly halting the industry in a few days.

The craft unions traditionally follow pay settlements of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, the industry's biggest union, which represents 90,000 manual and white-collar workers. Its leaders hope to avoid an immediate confrontation with the Government by taking its 8 per cent pay claim to arbitration, but this year the craft unions have shown signs of wanting to take their own way with their claim for a substantial rise.

A recommendation for action to start on February 18 was sent to members of nine unions in the National Craftsmen Coordinating Committee last week. Results of voting at mass meetings are to be collated by all the craft unions today.

The Corporation has told all its manual and craft unions that the Government will not allow it to go beyond the 5 per cent guidelines. Any big confrontation with its key workers

would be a serious blow to the loss-making industry.

The craft unions were apparently divided yesterday on whether to call formally for a strike. The main threat appears to come from the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, which represents 17,000 workers. About 900 engineering workers at the Llanwern steel plant, Gwent, voted two-to-one last week to back the strike, and union leaders indicated that by the end of last week, two-thirds of engineers' voting results from other plants were also in favour.

A meeting of 2,000 steel workers at the threatened Corby plant, Northamptonshire, voted at the weekend to oppose plans to close iron and steel-making there with the loss of more than 5,000 jobs.

Mr. John Cowling, ISTC convenor at Corby, and executive committee member of the union, said that steelworkers there could take over the plant within an hour. Opposition was strong to the planned cuts, which would create 30 per cent unemployment in the area.

Falmouth ship repair bid may be resisted

By Ian Hargreaves, Shipping Correspondent

BRISTOL CHANNEL Ship-repairers, the C. H. Bailey subsidiary, has made a formal bid to take over Falmouth Ship-repairers, whose closure was announced by British Shipbuilders last week.

Mr. Christopher Bailey, chairman of the company which led the fight against nationalisation of ship repair three years ago, said yesterday that the offer was on the table for British Shipbuilders and the Government to consider.

"If the terms are accepted, the yard will be reopened within three months of closure. The terms of the Bailey offer are:

- British Shipbuilders to grant a 15-year lease with an option for a further 15 years at no fixed rent.
- British to stand all commercial losses except £1m in the first year.
- Profits to be shared between British Shipbuilders and Bailey on a basis laid down by the latter, but to involve a majority share for Bailey in the first period of lease and 50-50 thereafter.
- British Shipbuilders to make all existing assets available. Bailey to maintain and replace assets.
- British to pay for stocks used at purchase or final audit price, whichever is lower.
- No dilapidation clause, so Bailey would not be liable for repairs to a broken gate or an unused dock.
- Five per cent of profits to be shared by employees and 5 per cent by management.
- All standard government assistance in the area to be available, including a 23.5 per cent grant on capital projects.
- Government or British Shipbuilders to back a loan of between £1.5m and £2m to Bailey at a fixed rate of 10 per cent for 10 to 15 years to be used for development.

Later start

The proportion of "don't knows" has risen steadily from 12 per cent in October, to 19 per cent in January and 20 per cent now.

Labour, the Scottish National Party and the Yes for Scotland organisations, all of which are campaigning for an assembly, can take heart from the fact that their efforts have started much later than their oppo-

nents' and have nearly three weeks in which to reach a peak.

However, the narrowness of the poll findings means that a turn-out of about 72 per cent will be needed to overcome the requirement that 40 per cent of the whole Scottish electorate must approve the Scotland Act before devolution can be introduced.

This is as high as an average General Election turn-out and 10 per cent more than the total vote in the EEC referendum four years ago.

Undecided

Robin Reeves, Welsh Correspondent, writes: The Welsh Assembly referendum campaign enters its last 2 1/2 weeks before polling day with a significant number of the Welsh people evidently still undecided.

A BBC opinion poll published late on Friday, indicated that 45.8 per cent will be voting against and only 33 per cent for the Assembly in the referendum.

But the poll, which predicted a 69 per cent turn-out, also found 21.2 per cent of voters were undecided—an increase of 7 per cent compared with a poll last autumn.

Mr. Barry Jones, secretary of the umbrella Wales for the Assembly Campaign, said at the weekend that the poll showed the "Yes" vote was in a "Yes" majority in the referendum.

John Elliott adds: The Confederation of British Industry said last night that it is hoping for a "No" vote in the referendum because implementation of the Scotland and Wales Acts could damage business.

This would be especially serious at a time when business confidence is already "very fragile," it says in its latest members' bulletin.

Uranium £90m unit for Cheshire plant

BY DAVID FISHLOCK, SCIENCE EDITOR

A SECOND URANIUM-enrichment unit costing £90m will be built at Capenhurst, Cheshire, doubling its enrichment capacity.

It is expected to result in substantial enrichment, contracts from West Germany, some of which will probably be transferred from the U.S. Department of Energy.

The unit will be the second part of a new uranium-enrichment plant using the gas centrifuge process.

The project has been approved by the board of British Nuclear Fuels, the State-owned nuclear fuel services company. An announcement to MPs is expected this week.

British Nuclear Fuels is a shareholder in Urenco, the Anglo-German-Dutch enrichment company set up in 1970 to exploit the new gas centrifuge technology. Urenco has approved a similar investment in its second plant at Almelo, Holland.

Both these extensions of capacity are needed to meet contracts for uranium enrichment worth more than £1bn in the 1980s, mainly from electric power stations in West Germany, Britain and Brazil.

The Capenhurst project will create 200 jobs and 300 more in the four years of construction.

It still awaits local planning

authority approval, but the process itself has been approved by the Health and Safety Executive as virtually free from effluent and emission.

Details of the technology, which is still developing rapidly through a tripartite research and development programme, have not yet been settled for the new factory. But it is expected to include important contributions by all three nations.

The three Governments behind Urenco have approved in principle its plans to build a third enrichment plant in West Germany, about 20 miles from the Almelo site.

When Urenco was originally formed it was considered diplomatically contentious to build a commercial enrichment plant on German soil. So West Germany instead invested in the Almelo site.

But the refusal of Dutch MPs to give approval for Urenco's Brazilian contract, in spite of its endorsement by the Dutch Government, convinced the West German electricity supply industry last year that it could not remain dependent upon a foreign source of enrichment.

The first tranche of enrichment capacity from the German plant at Gronau, however, is not expected to be in operation until well into the 1980s. The first step will be to build a centrifuge assembly line.

German fears

The escalating problems in Iran, casting a steadily lengthening shadow over the German stock markets. And the Bundesbank's lifting of the Lombard rate together with a

Further raising of banks' reserve requirements have asserted more pressure. As recently as the middle of last month these problems were still being shrugged off as the Commercial Bank share index recovered to around 940, within 3 per cent of the peak reached last October. But last Wednesday the index dipped to below 800 though it steadied towards the end of the week. In a harsher climate there is now a risk that the more severe stance of German monetary policy may affect not only the immediate DM-zone countries such as the Netherlands but also France.

Germany has proportionately more involvement in Iran than most of its trading partners. The power station contracts of the Siemens subsidiary Kraftwerk Union are a spectacular example of German exposure to the country and Siemens shares have gone very much out of favour. The major banks are supposed to be heavily lent in Iran and their shares, too, have been very weak. Germany's traditional dependence on Iran for the bulk of its oil supplies has intensified the market's worries.

The tightening of monetary policy has been another reason for the weakness of bank shares. Interest rate margins have been under pressure—there will presumably be a concerted move quite soon to put lending rates up. In addition the banks are likely to show losses on the enormous bond portfolios they hold this year as interest rates rise reversing some of the capital gains on bonds which have been making useful contributions to profits since 1975.

The Bundesbank's tight money policy gained conviction last week from the announcement of a rise of 1.1 per cent in consumer prices in the month to mid-January. The round of New Year price rises normally makes January a bad month; this year the oil price

Sime/Guthrie

This morning Guthrie's shareholders are receiving Sir Darby's rebuttal of the defence circular sent out last week. At this stage, however, its routine criticism of the plant's valuations just published is very much. And Sime's denunciation of the low cover for proposed Guthrie dividends depends on rather suspect arithmetic, with extraordinary assumptions of exchange differences and knowledge of earnings in a manner which few informed analysts would recommend.

What is allowing Guthrie shareholders to remain so general, feeling that Sime is no higher than the current bid. The new document does not take the opportunity to rule out the possibility, so shareholders and Guthrie can continue to sit tight and await developments.

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Weather

UK TODAY
SOUTHERN areas will be cloudy with rain or sleet which will fall as snow on high ground. Northern areas will be cloudy with occasional sleet or snow. London and Southern England, E. Anglia, the Midlands, Cloudy with rain or sleet with snow on high ground. Max. 3C (36F). Northern England, N.E. England, Ulster, Cloudy with occasional sleet with fresh to strong. Max. 3C (37F). Borders, E. Scotland, Orkney, Mainly cloudy with isolated snow showers. Win deasterly. Max. 3C (37F). W. Scotland, The Highlands, Dry with bright intervals. Wind easterly. Max. 4C (39F). Outlook: Mostly dry with night frost but some rain or snow.

WORLDWIDE	Y day	Y day	Y day
	midday	midday	midday
Algeria	23	25	27
Algiers	23	25	27
Amman	23	25	27
Athens	23	25	27
Bahrein	23	25	27
Batavia	23	25	27
Beirut	23	25	27
Bombay	23	25	27
Buenos Aires	23	25	27
Calcutta	23	25	27
Cairo	23	25	27
Cardiff	23	25	27
Colon	23	25	27
Copenhagen	23	25	27
Corfu	23	25	27
Dublin	23	25	27
Dhaka	23	25	27
Edinburgh	23	25	27
Geneva	23	25	27
Helsinki	23	25	27
Hong Kong	23	25	27
Imbabura	23	25	27
Isle of Man	23	25	27
Jersey	23	25	27
London	23	25	27
Lyon	23	25	27
Madrid	23	25	27
Manila	23	25	27
Moscow	23	25	27
Mumbai	23	25	27
Nairobi	23	25	27
Paris	23	25	27
Perth	23	25	27
Rangoon	23	25	27
Reykjavik	23	25	27
Rome	23	25	27
Singapore	23	25	27
Sofia	23	25	27
Taipei	23	25	27
Tokyo	23	25	27
Toronto	23	25	27
Yokohama	23	25	27

Continued from Page 1

Iran

questions that he still recognised the Shah as his commander-in-chief.

Asked if he recognised the authority of Khomeini's council to punish him, he said, "I don't know who the Islamic Revolutionary Council is. I don't know why I should be tried and why I should be punished."

His remarks were translated from Persian by Khomeini aides.

Dr. Ibrahim Yazdi, a senior Khomeini aide, said the General would be tried by an "Islamic court" on charges of "participating in the murder of people." He did not know what punishment would be asked.

The General was asked if he felt his life was in danger from the court. Khomeini said he was the sky and lifting his hands, he said, "I came into this world once and once I will leave it."

During the news conference, Yazdi was asked what had happened to Dr. Bakhtiar. He said there was a rumour that the Prime Minister had left the country with top-ranking generals, but that he could not confirm this.

He added: "Bazargan is taking over power in the country," referring to Dr. Mehdi Bazargan, head of the "Iranian Provisional Government" appointed by the Ayatollah last Monday.

The joy at the headquarters was mixed with worry over continued fighting by forces still loyal to Dr. Bakhtiar, and the prospect of excessive revolutionary zeal by the victors.

As the Ayatollah's supporters fired their weapons outside, an aide sighed to reporters, "The situation is really getting out of control. The people are getting over-excited and there is not much anyone can do."

He said Khomeini supporters were phoning in to headquarters, reporting how many prisoners they had taken, and asking what to do with them. "We are telling them to take away their arms, kiss their faces and tell them they are going to serve the nation from now on, and not the Shah."

British Shipbuilders would not comment on the offer last night, but Mr. David Mudd, Conservative MP for Falmouth, and Mr. David Penhaligon, Liberal MP for Truro, said they doubted the Government would agree to Mr. Bailey's terms.

Mr. Bailey said a speedy response was essential as his company expected to start operations this autumn at the £230m dry dock complex it hoped to lease from the Dubai Government. This is the biggest ship repair facility in the world and the terms Bailey is negotiating are similar to those offered to British Shipbuilders.

There is likely to be strong resistance from the Government to Mr. Bailey's Falmouth offer because it would prefer what British Shipbuilders sees as excess UK capacity in the industry eliminated, and because of Mr. Bailey's anti-nationalisation campaign.

If Mr. Bailey succeeds in the takeover of Falmouth, for which he bid twice before nationalisation, it will probably not be limited to the existing facilities.

British also owns a moth-balled 300,000 dwt floating dry dock moored in Hawaii which it may wish to site in Falmouth. This dock is more than twice as large as any in the British Shipbuilders complex.

Nigeria double tax accord expected

BY DAVID FREUD

A RAPID renegotiation of the double tax agreement between the UK and Nigeria now seems likely after talks held in Lagos last month.

Last June Nigeria said it was revoking its tax agreements with nine countries, including the UK, from April 1, 1979. Also in June, it introduced a 30 per cent levy on all cash remittances by foreign airline and shipping companies, to take effect from the end of the tax agreements.

However, it now looks likely that a new agreement between Nigeria and the UK could be ready for signing before, or soon after, the old one runs out.

This means the remittance levy may not be applied to such British companies as British Caledonian, which would have been affected because it sells services within Nigeria yet incurs its main expenses abroad.

The Inland Revenue said "substantial progress" was

made at the talks. A final meeting to complete the negotiations is likely to take place within weeks.

The Nigerians are understood to be also negotiating with U.S. officials, and a double tax agreement is likely to be concluded with the U.S. at much the same time as with Britain.

There is likely to be a delay for appraisal of these two treaties before the Nigerians begin negotiations with the other seven countries whose double tax agreements have been revoked. These are Ghana, Sierra Leone, Gambia, New Zealand, Sweden, Denmark and Norway.

Nigeria is the UK's eighth biggest export market, the largest outside Europe and the U.S. The old agreement dates back to 1947 and the Nigerians have said they were revoking it because it was inherited from colonial times.